



**SUBJECT: Work related deaths at all-time low**

**RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)**

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***The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its annual figures for the number of work-related fatalities in 2019/20, which have dropped to a record low.***



Between April 19 and March 20, the data revealed that **111** workers were fatally injured, a rate of 0.34 deaths per 100,000 workers.

This represents a fall of 38 deaths from the previous year, and is the lowest ever recorded. While numbers have almost halved in the last 20 years, aside from this current fall, numbers have remained broadly level over recent years.

A spokesperson for the HSE said “No one should be hurt or killed by the work they do. In these extraordinary times, we have seen many workers risking their lives to help others during the coronavirus outbreak. Although these statistics are not a reflection on Covid-19 related loss of life, it is a pertinent time to reflect.

Of the **111** fatal injuries:-

- **40** fatal injuries to construction workers was recorded, accounting for the largest share, and is around 4 times as high as the 'all industry' rate
- **20** fatal injuries to agriculture, forestry and fishing workers was recorded, and while this is an all-time low, it is still 18 times as high as the 'all industry' rate
- **5** fatal injuries to waste/recycling workers were recorded. Despite being a relatively small employment sector, fatalities over the last 5 years have averaged 18 times as high as the 'all industry' rate.

The three most common causes of fatality continue to be; workers falling from height (**29**), being struck by a moving vehicle (**20**) and being struck by a moving object (**18**)

Older workers (over 60 years of age) while only around 10% of the workforce, accounted for **27%** of all fatal injuries.

The full HSE annual Health and Safety Statistics will be released on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

**Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)**