



SUBJECT: Happy Birthday Health & Safety

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

ISSUE DATE: **REF:**

Aug 2014

HSB40

Life Begins at 40!

It is 40 years since the Health and Safety at Work etc Act received Royal Assent and provided a new regulatory framework for workplace health and safety in Great Britain. The passage of the Bill to create the Act spanned two different Governments and had broad, all-party support.

The Act has helped make Britain one of the safest and healthiest places in the world to work, saving thousands of lives, preventing many more injuries at work and reducing the economic and social costs of health and safety failures. The total number of work-related injuries has fallen by three quarters since it was introduced. The number of people fatally injured doing their job now stands at a record low.

The Health and Safety at Work Act places responsibility on those who create risks to manage them in a proportionate, practical way. It places ownership and responsibility for managing risk with the person who creates the risk whilst also giving a responsibility to every employee to look out for themselves and their colleagues. These principles are universally applicable, this not only means it can be applied across all workplaces but globally and it is no surprise that other countries around the world are keen to replicate our system. We welcome this interest, and as we look to the future, we hope to share this knowledge and expertise more widely in order to help save even more lives around the world.

The HSE campaigned against those 'jobsworths' who misuse the Act, or those who trivialise its purpose by using health and safety as a convenient excuse for unpopular decisions or to defend poor service.

As HSE looks to the next 40 years it will strive to improve and innovate whilst holding on to the core principles and qualities that have enabled Great Britain to be one of the safest places to work in the world.

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
Your Mouchel Health & Safety Adviser (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)**