

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 19TH APRIL 2004

SUBJECT: ACTION AND ENQUIRIES BY THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of two recent accidents, which have interested the Health and Safety Executive.

2. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS BY THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

2.1 Both were reported to the Enforcing Authority in compliance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

2.2 The first occurred at the Cleansing Section at Penmaen Depot when a forklift truck ran over an employee's foot.

2.3 An Officer of the HSE investigated the accident on 27th January, 2004 and concluded that no further action would be taken. However, confirmation of the measures necessary to prevent further occurrences of a similar nature, were required.

2.4 Officers of the Corporate Safety Unit have consulted with relevant officers and appropriate measures have been introduced at the premises. A letter confirming the actions taken has been sent by the Public Services Manager, to the Investigating Officer at the Health and Safety Executive.

2.5 The second occurred at a primary school when a pupil was involved in a running game with other pupils. He tripped, as he ran towards a building and put out his hands in an attempt to save himself. Unfortunately, his hands made contact with a pane of glass, which broke on impact, causing lacerations to his left wrist and tendon damage to the fingers of his left hand.

2.6 The pupil received first aid treatment on site before being transferred to hospital, where he was released following surgery, the following day.

2.7 Some years ago, an independent survey of the glazing at the school had been undertaken under the terms of Regulation 14 of the Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992. At that time, each pane of glass which required to be capable of breaking safely, was identified and the work necessary to render it safe, undertaken.

2.8 The window which caused the injury, was not identified in the survey as requiring attention because it was neither adjacent to a door, nor 800mm or less, above finished floor level.

2.9 An officer of the HSE visited the school on 5th April, 2004 to carry out an investigation. The initial indication is that a notice is to be served prohibiting children from attending the school until appropriate action is taken to ensure that glazing does not break or, breaks safely if there is a foreseeable risk of injury if glass is broken.

2.10 Arrangements have been made for the glazing at the school to be re-surveyed and any necessary remedial work carried out during the Easter break.

2.11 Clearly, the action by the HSE places an obligation on the Authority to ensure compliance with

Regulation 14 of the Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992 in all premises.

3.00 The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

Author: Phil Griffiths, Senior Corporate Safety Officer, Ext. 4072

Consultees: Steve Delahaye, Chief Trading Standards Officer Ext. 5316
Mike Workman, Commercial Services Manager Ext. 5221
Roger Webb, Director of the Environment Ext. 5311
Cabinet Member Cllr. K. Viney
Cllr. P. Bevan, Chairman Corporate Safety Committee