



EDITOR'S COMMENT

The talking point recently has been the seven per cent increase in new personal injury claims, as outlined in the mid-year analysis undertaken by the Injuries Board.

Its six-month review (Jan-June 2015) revealed findings of a 17,132 new claims – representing a seven per cent increase on the 15,987 new claims during the same period for 2014. Motor claims are up six per cent, workplace claims are up over eight per cent and claims for accidents in public places have increased by nearly nine per cent.

The Injuries Board is now repeating its call for insurance data sharing and greater transparency in the interests of consumers and the wider society.

Changes are also afoot at the helm of the state body, which was set up in 2004 to process and award compensation in respect of personal injury claims. A new chief executive will take over on 1 October, and succeeds Patricia Byron who departed the Board earlier this year, after many years of service. Conor O'Brien has almost 30 years' experience in the financial services and IT industries. He joins the Injuries Board from his role as Chief Operating Officer at Capita Asset Services.

It's also that time of year again for NISO's Annual Conference & Exhibition, with the event on 2 October again moving west of the Shannon to the ever-popular City of the Tribes. This year also marks the organisation's 24th annual occupational safety awards, held in association with the Northern Ireland Safety Group.

Good luck to all those companies and organisations short-listed for this year's awards!

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4 NEWS UPDATE

The search is now on for 'Safety Rep of the Year' for 2016; nominate your Leading Light in Road Safety, the first-ever All Ireland IOSH farm safety initiative in November, plus much more.



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The Injuries Board has repeated its call for insurance data sharing and greater transparency in the interests of consumers and the wider society, in light of its mid-year analysis which revealed a seven per cent increase in new personal injury claims.



15 FLU VACCINATION

The HSE's winter flu vaccination campaign is targeting all frontline healthcare workers including carers, those over 65 years of age and those with long-term medical conditions such as heart or lung disease.



17 NISO NEWS

NISO Annual Conference 2015 entitled 'Good Safety is Good Business' and the NISO Safety Awards Presentation takes place this year on 2 October in Galway at the Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa.



18 IOSH NEWS

Occupational safety professionals have the "ability to inspire true leadership" when it comes to promoting safety and health within their organisations. This was the key message for delegates at this year's IOSH Ireland Branch Annual Conference in Galway.



22 EURO NEWS

The 2014-2015 Healthy Workplaces Campaign, which will conclude at the summit in Bilbao on 3-4 November, will be succeeded by the next campaign, scheduled to run from 2016-2017, on theme of 'Healthy Workplaces for all Ages'.



29 FARM SAFETY

Risk assessment training courses and farmer discussion groups have been further developed in a bid to address the ongoing challenges facing the farming community, as outlined here by Dr John McNamara, Teagasc Health and Safety Officer.



30 HSA ANNUAL REPORT

With inexperienced workers four times more likely to be injured than their more experienced colleagues, the Health and Safety Authority plans to focus on proper supervision, training and risk management strategies to help newcomers to the workforce over the coming years.



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The Health and Safety Authority plans to extend its free online resource to the agri-business sector later this year, following the summer launch of BeSMART.ie for small construction companies.

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Rolling out a health and safety programme that will inspire staff to contribute to the process can have its challenges. Here Liam Higgins from CARA Safety shares his top six tips, which he says are cost neutral, easy to implement and guaranteed to get your organisation on the right track.



39 HEALTH SCREENING

NUI Galway's new free mammogram service under the banner of 'Pink Power' for female employees, and a free prostate screening programme for male employees under the banner of 'Blue Power' is the first initiative of its kind in any university in Ireland.



42 ESRI SURVEY REPORT

A new report from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) examines trends in work-related injury and illness in Ireland, and investigates whether or not the economic boom has been bad for workers' safety and health.



47 ARTHUR COX

It's reassuring to know that the HSA is keeping pace in its efforts to make health and safety compliance in the construction industry both simpler and more cost effective for everyone, writes Niav O'Higgins, Partner and Head of Construction & Engineering with Arthur Cox.



49 BRISTOL MYERS SQUIBB

Bristol-Myers Squibb has plans to establish a major bioprocessing manufacturing facility in Cruisera Co. Dublin, representing an investment to the tune of €750 million. The leading global healthcare company, which recently celebrated 50 years of manufacturing in Ireland, continues to place health and safety at the forefront of its operations.



51 M+W GROUP

M+W Ireland was awarded the Gold Award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in July, which was the company's first-ever submission for this international award.



53 UK NEWS

The government's changes to the certification the sick note by GPs are failing, according to a new report from the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).



59 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A report by US-OSHA has revealed that work injuries and illnesses are forcing many American families into poverty.



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