

Uned Iechyd a Diogelwch Galwedigaethol
Occupational Health and Safety Unit


University of Wales, Bangor

2006

Report produced April 2007







ii. Corporate Health and Safety Risk Assessment

SEG initiated the preparation of a corporate risk assessment in respect of Health & Safety – the detailed work for the identification and assessment of risk being carried out by the Safety Adviser.


This task proved to be highly detailed and labour intensive and a final (First) version was agreed in January 2007. This is now being further evaluated in 2008.

v. Stress Management

SEG oversees policy at institutional level for the management of stress at work and continues to receive reports and provide advice. Duties in relation to developing the stress survey results has been allocated to the Staff Well-being Task and End Group, which reports to the Human Resources Task Group.

vi. Strategy

Planned Development Work for 2007/08 includes the production of Corporate Health and Safety Strategy for the University. It is anticipated that the Strategy will clearly identify the goals of the institution and set performance criteria so that progress may be measured. The Strategy will reflect institutional as well as national objectives and campaigns and will provide a clear direction for health and safety management at the University. [See Section 6]



In addition to its day-to-day advisory and supportive function the OHSU, during 2006, completed, advanced or led-on many significant issues, including:



Environment Agency (EA)

The University received a visit from the Environment Agency's Pollution Inspector on radiation use and waste management in January 2007. This visit centred on the University's licences for the storage, use and disposal of ionising radiation sources and local protocols and record keeping for the use and disposal of radiation materials.

Fire & Rescue Service

A number of visits and site inspections were undertaken by the North Wales Fire & Rescue Service; these mainly relating to familiarisation visits for new and significantly refurbished buildings or as result of specific concerns or enquiries. The Fire & Rescue Service also provided several Fire Safety Talks to students within Halls of Residence.

The Fire & Rescue Service continues to use University land and facilities for small-scale training exercises and the friendly relationship, built over many years, between UWB and the Fire & Rescue Service continues.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Railways

During 2006 the HSE's Railway Inspectorate was transferred to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Inspectors from the ORR have been in discussion with OHSU regarding safety controls at railway crossings on University land and during 2007 the University will be visited by the Railway Inspectorate in order to assess and advise on conditions and protocols on-site.


North West Wales Occupational Health and Safety Group (NWWOHSG)

The OHSU continues to act as 'Secretariat and Host' to the NWWOHSG. This is a voluntary commitment to the distribution and networking of health and safety information and good practice amongst employers across North Wales. As part of this commitment the OHSU hosts and arranges up to ten Seminars each year for local employers on various themes in the area of health and safety management and staff welfare.

The NWWOHSG has approximately 80 separate organizational and individual








The need for a clear strategy and direction for health and safety and health and safety management has been evident for some time, but due to staffing and workload difficulties at the OHSU its development has not been possible in 2006. However, it is likely that a Health and Safety Strategy will be agreed in 2007.

It is anticipated that the Strategy will not only consider and reflect national drivers⁴ but also those issues identified by the Corporate Health and Safety Risk Assessment and the challenges posed by the University strategic objectives and aspirations.

It is also anticipated that the Strategy will assist in or enable the University to press ahead, at some future time, with achieving the Welsh Assembly Government's Corporate Health Standard or a similar externally audited benchmark.




During 2006 a significant new item of Fire Safety legislation was introduced in the UK; The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The Order effectively removes an assortment of fire related legislation and much of the peculiarities associated with these.

As a result of the Reform Order the University will no longer require any Fire Certification for its buildings [there were approximately 10 fire certificates previously at UWB] and for the first time will now mainly operate under a single item of fire safety legislation.

It is anticipated that the introduction of the Reform Order will not increase the financial or administrative load upon the University; significantly because the majority of the requirements of this Order were already implemented at UWB.

Revised Fire Risk Assessments for the University buildings will be produced in 2007 through the Estates & Facilities Department. Departmental and School risk assessments will continue to consider fire



Within this Section annual statistics are provided for Accidents & Incidents, Staff Sickness Absence, Staff Health and Safety Training and Fires & Fire Alarm Activations. The Statistics Section of the Annual Report will be enhanced in the coming years to include College/Department health and safety activity and benchmarked work of the OHSU.

4.1.1 General

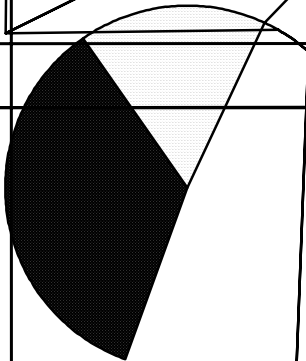
The total number of accident and incidents r95ccident The total 9(m)y.08 T53Tc[(CC)-1Tc0.2

compares favourably with the national University Sector average of 34.85 'actual' injuries to members of staff per 1,000 at risk⁶.

National and UWB accident/incident rate averaged per 1000 at risk







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This Section provides statistical information on sickness absence and trends in sickness recorded at the University over a three year period. Commentary is not provided on the statistics or their implications, however where possible National comparators are included.

It is anticipated that greater detail and interpretation of sickness absence data together with greater HE comparators will be available in future Annual Report.

Sickness Reporting Requirements

The University requires every member of staff to report sickness absence of a day or more through completing a Self-Certificate or forwarding a Doctor's Certificate. All absence reports (sick notes) are returned to the OHSU and are entered onto its Occupational Health Database and statistical information is then transferred to the Finance Department (wages) and Human Resources (absence monitoring).


During the year 1,625 sickness absence reports were received and entered on the Occupational Health database, 80% of these were self-certification Reports.

Overall Sickness Absence Statistics

Sickness absence totals for the last three years are as follows:

Year	2004	2005	2006
Calendar Days	17,560	14,875	15,742
Working Days Lost	13,247	11,305	11,919

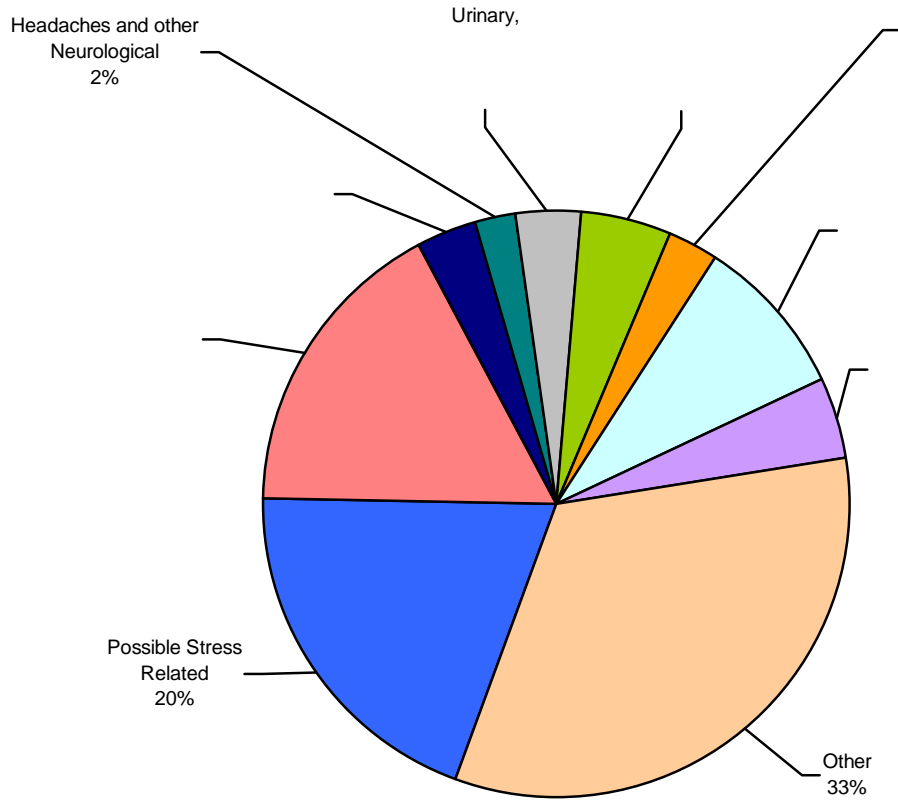
⁸ It is noted that direct work-related sickness absence statistics are not available as such are difficult to prove and therefore produce.




Two-thirds of employees take a single day [reported] sickness absence in

Combined (2004-06) Sickness Causation as a Percentage

To show an average breakdown of sickness absence (per condition-grouping) statistics for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are combined as follows:



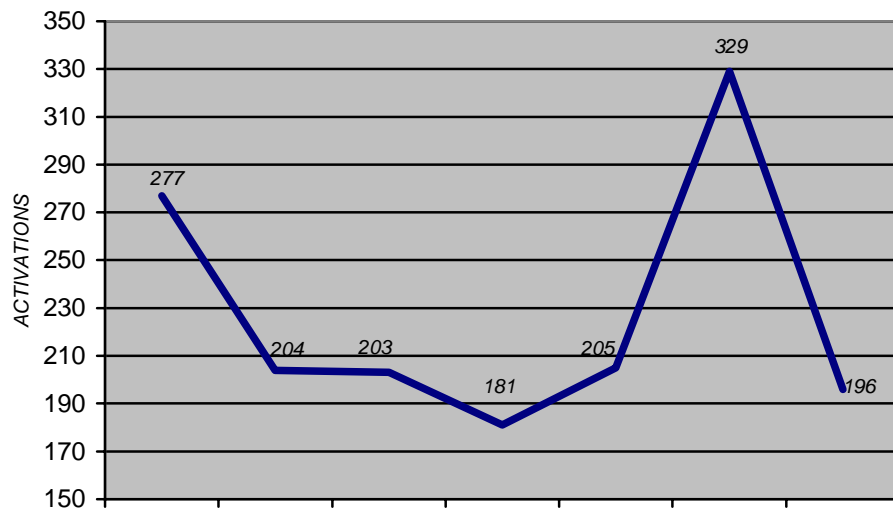


General

The Occupational Health and Safety Unit has provided both scheduled and ad-hoc courses to University members of staff and individual Schools and Departments. Courses, Training sessions and Briefings are provided by OHSU staff and external specialists, as appropriate.

Developments

In response to the last OHSU PIB¹⁴ (2006) exercise the training remit was altered to include 'income generation' and this was reflected in the higher number of IOSH 4



Activation Rates

At UWB Halls of Residences there are approximately 3,762 fire and smoke detectors. When this is compared to the number of non-fire activations of the fire alarm a ratio of 3 'false alarms' per 100 detectors is attained. This compares favourably to the national sector ratio of 4.4 activations per 100 detectors.

Other Information

Across the University sector as a whole¹⁷:

507 fires¹⁸ were reported within residential accommodation, 441 of these were in kitchens and 6 injuries¹⁹ resulted.

The Fire & Rescue Services attended the premises of those Universities surveyed (84) on a total of 7,718 occasions during 2006. Down from the 8,895 attendances in 2005.

There were four fires at the University of Wales, Bangor in 2006; two at halls of residence and two within academic buildings. Both fires within academic buildings were in chemical laboratories and required the use of an extinguisher.

For the first time since UWB statistics were collated there were no malicious activations of the fire alarm within any University building; however the North Wales Fire & Rescue Service still attended on 196 separate occasions in response to automatic fire alarm activations.

¹⁷ As per the 84 respondents to the national HE fire survey 2006

¹⁸ Fires are defined as 'fires requiring the use of an extinguisher or more to put out/extinguish'.

¹⁹ Injuries are defined as 'injuries requiring hospital treatment'.



Strategic Plan

