

Port Skills and Safety

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Dear Debbie

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974

HSE views Port Skills and Safety as the key stakeholder they work with in relation to ports and docks. Whom with industry and the unions create and maintain a suite of guidance that assists ports and docks in maintaining their safety standards and provides valuable guidance.

Currently ports and docks are not seen as 'high risk' or a 'priority' area for proactive inspections. Each RIDDOR would be looked at and a decision to investigate made, based on our published criteria.

- The ports industry is a mature industry that have a good health and safety record,
- In **July 2019**, PSS created the first ever Sector-wide Plan and asked HSE Transport Sector what next steps they should take in improving health and safety. They created this plan as they wanted to set themselves targets as an industry.



UK Ports Health and
Safety Sector Plan 20'

- I attended PSS Board and highlighted PSS' successes including the industry tripartite guidance, information and safety alert sharing and not treating safety as a commodity.
- The three areas of improvement suggested to the PSS Board were:
 - Audit and Review as no system to ensure members were following guidance,
 - Communication and co-operation between ship and shore employers,
 - Worker engagement.

- **January 2019 to February 2020** industry took a slight backwards step with an increase of workplace fatalities.
- These failures were considered as part of HSE feedback to you in February 2020, and you responded by creating an action plan for improvements.
- I worked closely with Port Skills to see the changes and improvements and how they were cascaded down, this included a short-term appointment for someone to audit and review sites, and to ensure SIPs were being used.
- Since 2020 there have been significant improvements in the incidents at Ports and Docks.

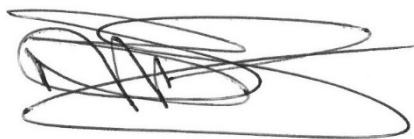
HSE must make the best use of our people and resources to help us protect people and places. We have introduced new systems and processes that enable us to make decisions based on sound data, monitor our progress and drive improvements in regulatory activities.

HSE maximise the use of our resources and remain focused on the highest priority areas. We target and inspect duty holders in sectors which have the most serious risks. Where we have intelligence that health and safety is a significant concern, such as, previous performance, concerns raised by workers, the public or others, incident investigations, reports of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences.

Our regulatory emphasis is on prevention but, where appropriate, we will ensure that action is taken to manage risks and protect life, health and the environment.

Our enforcement action is proportionate, targeted, consistent, transparent and accountable. It is in line with our Enforcement Policy Statement and Enforcement Management Model

Yours Sincerely



Nicola Jaynes

HM Inspector of Health and Safety

