

Cross-Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Tuesday 6th February 2024 18:00-20:00

(Scottish Parliament and online)

Minute

Present

MSPs

Clare Adamson (SNP)	Convener
Claire Baker (Labour)	Deputy Convener

Speakers

Dr Stephen Bridgman	Public Health Scotland
Peter Bennet OBE	Access Industry Forum
Cathy Barlow	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Carlene McAvoy	RoSPA Water Safety
Dr Karen McDonnell	RoSPA Scotland Road Safety

Members

Michael Avril	RNLI
Kevin Chase	SCSN
Eleanor Griffiths	East Renfrewshire Council
Martin Hunt	Tartan Silk
Karter Kane	ESF
Sharni Keating	ESF
Caroline Lawrie	SGN
Elizabeth Lumsden	RoSPA (Secretariat)
Wayne Mackay	ESF

Michelle McKenna	CPIN
Neil McNicol	John McNicol & Co. (Electrical Engineers) Ltd
John Nelson	AECOM
Alan Purves	SSERC
Scott Sanford	SNIPPEF
Norman Stevenson	Safety Groups UK
Samuel Terry	ESF
Alice Taylor	Public Health Scotland
Alistair Taylor	Clare Adamson's office
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate

Online

Robert Atkinson	Public Health Scotland
Gill Burton	Scottish Cot Death Trust
Andy Cathro	Safety Advocate
Steve Cole	RoSPA
Jim Dorman	St Andrew's First Aid
Yvonne Gilfillan	Babcock International
Sheena Harper	Safety Advocate
Sarah Hill	Gas Safe Register
Karen Hillen	OPSS
Sylvia Mackay	Safety Advocate
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Rhiain Reynolds	RoSPA (Minute Taker)
Duncan Spiers	Christopher's Saving Life Campaign

Apologies

Fred Cullum	Safety Advocate
Hannah Dale	Division of Health Psychology – Scotland
Bill Harley	Fife Community Safety
Lynn Hill	Fife Community Safety
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Gillian Middleton	Early Years Scotland
Dave Roy	Kingdom Housing
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Liz Young	Safety Advocate

1 Welcome

The Convener, Clare Adamson MSP, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Karter Kane and Wayne Mackay from Electrical Safety First for funding the cost of the refreshments.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on October 21 were proposed as accurate by Carol Wood and seconded by Katrina Phillips.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Headlines Newsletter – previously circulated – thanks to all those who contributed. This is a great way of sharing all the good work that the Members are involved in to prevent accidents. See appendix 1.

Liz highlighted the current funding situation and Kevin Chase of Scottish Community Safety Network spoke in further detail on the significant funding pressures facing home safety amidst considerations for the 2024-25 Scottish Budget.

5 Speakers

Dr Stephen Bridgman Data collection and collation

Dr Stephen Bridgman is a Consultant in Public Health and Clinical lead for musculoskeletal disease and injury at Public Health Scotland.

Peter Bennet OBE Falls from height – tackling workplace injuries

Peter is Chair of the Access Industry Forum and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the charity the No Falls Foundation. He also holds senior roles in leading not-for-profit industry bodies, PASMA and the Ladder Association, and has dedicated over 40 years of his career to the safety of those who work at height.

Cathy Barlow Fire Related Injuries and Activity Data

Cathy is Deputy Head of Prevention, Protection and Preparedness at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Carlene McAvooy Water-related fatalities

Carlene is the Leisure Safety Manager for RoSPA and is an Honorary Fellow with the George Institute for Global Health. She is also the Founder and Secretariat of Water Safety Scotland.

Dr Karen McDonnell Road accident data

Karen is the OSH Policy Adviser for RoSPA and Chair of the Scottish Occupational Road Safety Alliance. Karen's presentation is entitled 'Road Safety data and Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030'.

Presentations are available on the RoSPA website at [Cross Party Group - RoSPA](#)

6 Questions and Comments

Clare Adamson asked about whether any changes were seen in the accident data for road and water safety related to the pandemic. Karen McDonnell said she had some data relating to the workplace that she could share but only anecdotal evidence for the effects of COVID-19 on road safety. Karen explained that SCORSA encouraged return to driving for work conversations to take place, including things like the roads being used differently and by different users. Carlene McAvoy said there was an increase in participation in water leisure activities and sales of related equipment but no clear indication in an increase in accidents due to the pandemic. Both Karen and Carlene suggested that future data would give a better understanding of if and how COVID-19 affected accident data.

Brian Topping asked if the condition of roads, such as potholes, is factored in when considering road safety. Karen confirmed that this, among many other factors, is included in the Scotland Road Safety Framework. Karen also advised that road safety community in Scotland are writing the world's first guide to safe systems for road safety which can be used for making budgeting decisions. Also, climate resilience research has been taking place and Karen can share a paper on the effect of weather on potholes due to poor climate resilience. Steve Cole added that there is no obvious correlation between potholes and accident rates however road condition is a known contributing factor and he mentioned research done in Scandinavia where a different approach is taken to utility access.

Christopher Bell commented that the rate of pedestrian casualties was highest at 30mph and asked about the effects of electric vehicles, which may make less noise, and the deprivation index in built up areas, which could mean people have cheaper cars, part-worn tyres etc. Karen confirmed that they work with partners to understand the full picture and mentioned research done by Tyre Safe who found a large number of cars that had been in accidents had part or completely worn tyres.

Stephen Bridgman mentioned that Raigmore Hospital were concerned that the poorly designed roads in the Highlands were contributing to accidents, especially with those not familiar with the area. Stephen will raise again at the road safety meeting.

Andy Cathro commented that the increased safety features in modern cars could cause drivers to be more complacent. Karen said they advise drivers remain situationally aware, including of and about their vehicles e.g. being familiar with the

car, doing preoperative checks, ensuring safeguards are functional, planning for weather etc.

Katrina Phillips asked if the Scottish Government had done an impact assessment including cost analysis of accidents before removing funding from home safety. Stephen Bridgeman added that direct costs to the health service can be estimated but wider costs, including to other public services, is more difficult to calculate and can be wide reaching. Every new generation requires education and problems are likely to be seen in the future. Stephen confirmed he believed funding cuts will not save money, but it would be difficult to prove.

Kevin Chase asked about rates of fires in Scotland due to e-bikes and e-scooters. Cathy Barlow replied that the increase in Scotland has not been as much as in England but they are keeping a keen eye on numbers in Scotland. She added that a working group with various partners is being tasked with developing messaging around lithium-ion batteries, including for waste disposal of damaged batteries.

Clare expressed concerns about energy companies offering lower tariffs at night as this encourages usage that conflicts with safety advice. Cathy Barlow confirmed their advice is to avoid using appliances at night as it is more difficult to respond if a fire breaks out and she will check if there has been any engagement with Scotland FRS.

Clare asked about the use of collaborative robots (cobots) for working at height, having seen them repairing wind turbines. Peter Bennett responded that he had not seen an increase in their use however the No Falls Foundation does encourage use of technology to reduce risks, but it can be unpopular as people may feel their jobs are threatened.

Stephen Bridgeman asked about the funding cuts in terms of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which received Royal Assent on January 16th. Clare confirmed that clause 24e states that everyone has the right to be informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of accident prevention. Clare agreed that this did not align with removal of funding for home safety.

7 Date of the next meeting

March 26th, 2024 'New Initiatives'

Any other business

Claire Baker proposed that the CPG writes a letter to the minister regarding the cuts to home safety funding, it was agreed unanimously that this would be written by Clare Adamson MSP and Claire Baker MSP on behalf of the group.

Appendix 1

Headlines Newsletter

RoSPA update

Funding

RoSPA staff in Scotland recently shared the following announcement with stakeholders:

Following a review of current grant funding against priorities and the new Justice Vision 2023-26 the Building Safer Communities Team, within the Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government, has made the decision to no longer fund RoSPA's Home Safety work in Scotland. Although very disappointed, RoSPA will investigate alternative arrangements over the coming months before the current funding ceases at the end of March 2024. RoSPA's work in water safety is unaffected by this decision and will continue to be funded.

Spotlight on: Dave Roy



Dave joined Kingdom Housing Association in 2011 after a long and successful health and safety career with Scottish Water. His role within Kingdom is to manage the health and safety team and to support and advise our people, that includes everyone from the Board members, the CE and all other colleagues within the association.

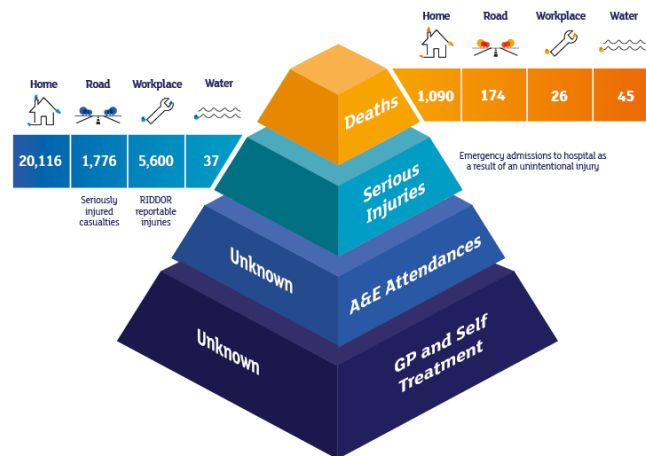
One of the great things Dave likes about Kingdom is the opportunity of being able to engage with their customers, both external and internal. Over the years he has worked closely with colleagues to help future proof their health and safety processes including staff safety, risk assessments and most importantly their assurance and compliance systems to name a few. Innovation is also a big priority for Dave and he's helped to introduce smart lone working devices for Housing and Estates colleagues, these are designed to give staff a high level of protection when out on visits etc.

Kingdom engages with customers on a regular basis through roadshows and tenant gatherings, giving Dave the opportunity to speak directly to Kingdom's customers about community safety and how to avoid scams when going about their day-to-day business.

Dave said "It is a privilege to work alongside our partners from various other organisations including the Cross Party Group, Safer Communities Fife, Police Scotland, RoSPA, ScORSA and BRAKE to name a few".

Latest data on injuries in the home

Data on unintentional injuries is released by Public Health Scotland in October each year. RoSPA in Scotland extracts the data specifically relating to home injuries and produces a data report and associated Injury Pyramid. A copy of the full report is available at [Statistics - RoSPA](#) and highlights that in 2022/23 there were 20,116 hospital admissions in Scotland due to an injury happening at home across all age groups. This figure includes 1,309 children under the age of five and 13,832 involving those over the age of 65 – the vast majority of which were falls (12,980).



RoSPA's annual analysis of home accident data will be shared in due course along with an updated version of the data tables which highlight the numbers of injuries affecting the under-5s and the over-65s for each local authority area. These will be circulated in a special edition of RoSPA's Homeward Newsletter. If you wish to receive a copy, contact Rhian on rreynolds@rospa.com

Falls

Following on from the previous CPG meeting on Falls, the following links were kindly passed on by Prof Dawn Skelton for sharing:

NHS Inform falls pages - <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/preventing-falls/>

How to get up from the floor - <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/preventing-falls/dealing-with-a-fall/what-to-do-if-you-fall/#:~:text=Getting%20up%20from%20a%20fall,to%20a%20side%20sitting%20position.>

Fallsassistant - <https://fallsassistant.org.uk/>

Make Movement your Mission - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MakeMovementYourMission>

Fife Cares provides advice on safer toys at Christmas



Fife Cares visited three shopping Centres in Fife during December and provided information to shoppers about buying and giving safer toys at Christmas.

They provided leaflets and advice on buying safer toys, the dangers of button batteries and general child home safety.

The picture shows Home Safety Advisor, Lynn Hill having a discussion with a Lady and her child who were from Romania. She found that the child had the previous year been in hospital. At that time there was also a young child in hospital beside them who had swallowed a button battery and was quite ill. This is a worldwide danger which some people are still not aware of.

Over 150 people were reached during the three sessions.

Product safety

OPSS (Office of Product Safety and Standards) is taking enforcement action and warning consumers about a dangerous e-bike battery manufactured by a company called UPP. See the link for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-takes-enforcement-action-over-dangerous-e-bike-battery>

URGENT SAFETY WARNING UPDATE: Stoves, Belling and New World renew calls for customers to book immediate modification to unsafe gas range cookers

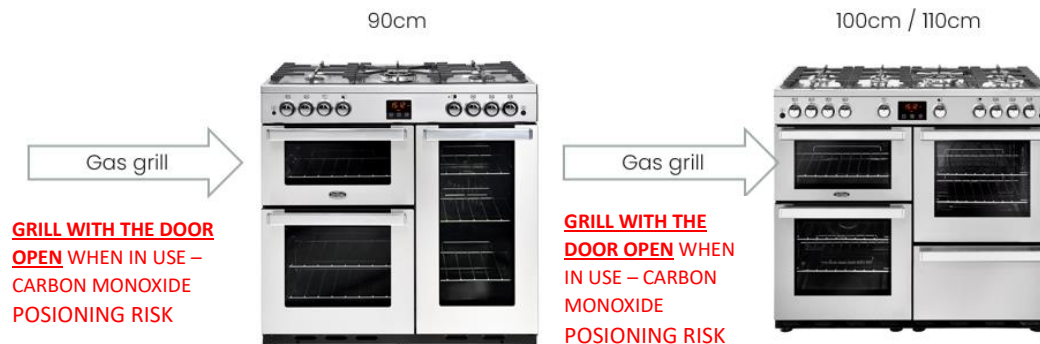
Belling, Stoves and New World have previously confirmed a number of their gas range cookers are unsafe and pose a carbon monoxide poisoning risk to consumers.

Owners of the affected models, who have yet to do so, need to urgently contact Stoves, Belling and New World to book a modification by contacting 0800 110 5728 (ROI +353 1691 7111) or email consumersupport@glendimplex.com in order to confirm if their cooker is affected and book a visit so the simple fix can be implemented.

Consumers are warned that incorrect use of these products poses a serious risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, until a critical modification has been made.

The modification, which was rolled out late 2022, ensures that even if the grill is used incorrectly, there will be no unsafe build-up of carbon monoxide. A number of Belling, Stoves and New World gas range cookers have been found to have a seal fault on the grill element, which can lead to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide being produced, which can lead to injury and death.

Consumers will need their model number, starting with 4444, and the serial number when contacting the company. This can be found by opening the main oven door. It is located on a badge on the frame below the oven cavity.



A Stoves, Belling and New World spokesperson said: “We are grateful to all of the consumers who have already organised a modification, given the risk of carbon monoxide we are urging those who have yet to be in touch or no longer own their cookers to contact us as soon as possible. Until this modification has been made consideration must be taken in using the grill, as such we want to remind all customers that they must use the gas grill with the door open, as detailed in the instruction manual. Doing so poses no risk of carbon monoxide build up.

“We have stringent health and safety measures in place, and all our cookers are tested to industry standards and by the relevant industry bodies before they are made available to buy.

“We will continue to raise awareness of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and to encourage the highest standards of testing industry-wide.”

The full list of affected models can be found [here](#), consumers with one of these gas range cookers in their home should get in touch as soon as possible to organise the modification. Those who may have previously owned an affected model are also being asked to get in contact so that the business can trace affected items.