

from Professor Dame Carol Black
Expert Adviser on Health and Work

please reply to helen.garnham@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Public Health Policy Directorate
Department of Health
Wellington House
133-135 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

September 2013

Dear colleague

**RESPONSIBILITY DEAL – LAUNCH OF NEW COLLECTIVE PLEDGE ON
CONSTRUCTION/CIVIL ENGINEERING**

You may be aware that construction workers nationally have a higher overall mortality rate, independent of social class. The industry is itinerant and male dominated and therefore hard to reach.

To tackle this issue, a sub group of the health at work network of the Public Health Responsibility Deal, representing construction and civil engineering, has been working together to develop a new collective pledge to take action to improve the health and wellbeing of their employees. Larger companies will also pledge to encourage their supply chain and sub-contractors to implement health and wellbeing activities.

The draft wording of the pledge is as follows:

“As organisations working in the construction / civil engineering industries we pledge to take action to manage the causes of occupational disease and improve the health and well-being of people working across offices and sites large and small.

We recognise that prevention and early intervention is the key to success and will take continuing action on the following:

- (1) Annual reporting of the health and well-being of employees

- (2) The provision of clinical Occupational health services (OHS) that work in accordance with the relevant standards e.g. SEQOHS
- (3) Arrangements to develop a programme to actively promote health and wellbeing and the effective management of health.

[Where relevant] We also pledge to encourage our subcontractors and our supply chains to endorse at least one of the actions to implement good health and well-being activities, above.”

Foundation signatories to this pledge are as follows:

Arup
Costain
Crossrail
Lend Lease
London Legacy Development Corporation
Park Health & Safety
Wates

This pledge has been developed with the support of the Department of Health and the Health & Safety Executive.

Together with Lord Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality, we shall launch the pledge on 10th October 2013, 12-2 at Arup, 8 Fitzroy Street, London, W1T 4BQ. I very much hope you will be able to attend this and that you will consider signing up to this pledge in recognition of the importance of this issue.

Please tell Helen Garnham at helen.garnham@dh.gsi.gov.uk if you plan to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Black', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dame Carol Black
Expert Adviser on Health and Work to the Department of Health