

HEALTH & SAFETY REVIEW

Date Thursday,
September 23rd, 2021
9.15am to 2pm

Delivery
Online Virtual
Event

CONFERENCE 2021

HEALTH & SAFETY New Dimensions in a Covid-19 World

Themes

- Managing through the Covid-19 pandemic
- Remote working
- The Judicial Council's personal injury guidelines
- Environmental Law Update



Covid-19 is still prominent on the safety agenda, whether it be through managing infection risk in the workplace and remote working for many. But 2021 also brings other new challenges, such as claims management under the new Judicial Council guidelines and important new environmental legislation.

This year's HSR conference is organised around four themes:

- **Managing through the Covid-19 pandemic, the resulting new regulations and the Work Safely Protocol, with health at the forefront of workplace concerns.**
- **Remote working, with one-third of the workforce based at home.**
- **The Judicial Council's guidelines on personal injury awards and what they mean for managing claims.**
- **Environmental legislation, as the Government's new Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Bill passes into law.**

At the end of each theme session, there will be time for discussion and questions.

The speakers at this year's conference will explore these issues, recount how they adapted to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and the implications of the personal injury guidelines and climate change legislation.



9.15 *Opening remarks by conference chairperson*

MARTIN O'HALLORAN FORMER CEO OF THE HSA, FORMER HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTITIONER, CHARTERED FELLOW OF IOSH, CHARTERED DIRECTOR AND CURRENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION AND QUALITY AUTHORITY.

Opening address

DR SHARON McGUINNESS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

9.30 **Theme - Managing the Covid-19 pandemic**

Essential Service provision in a Covid-19 World

MARK MADIGAN, SAFETY, HEALTH and WELLBEING MANAGER, ESB NETWORKS

Mark is currently head of safety, health and wellbeing with ESB Networks where he manages a dynamic team providing leadership and support across a range of challenging work programmes involving ESB staff and approved contractors. These work programmes include all aspects of electrical network reinforcement, extensive construction capital projects, and renewable energy solutions. This strategic leadership and support is set in the context of the Government's National Climate Action Plan, the Energy Regulator, ESB's Brighter Future 2030 Strategy and ESB's Safety Health and Environment Strategy.

Mark will discuss some of the challenges and controls implemented by an organisation who, as an essential service provider, are required to manage the risks posed to staff from SARS CoV-2 (COVID – 19) while ensuring the safe and secure provision of electricity.

Covid-19: our history or our future?

DR MARTIN HOGAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR. CHI (CORK)

Dr Martin Hogan, FRCPI FFOM, is a medical doctor who has been practising as a Consultant in Occupational Medicine for nearly 30 years. He is a past Dean of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He was President of the International Congress of Occupational Health held in Dublin in 2018, which attracted 2500 delegates from all over the world. He is a current board member of the International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH). He developed a particular interest in Covid as it affected workplaces in Ireland and advises many organisations on preventative measures in the workplace.

Dr Hogan will give a review of the impact on the pandemic, on workplaces in particular, and what we have learnt going forward. He will discuss possible future implications from Covid and measures we can put in place to protect people and our workplaces.

10.30 **Theme – Environmental Law Update**

LAURA RAFFERTY, SOLICITOR and OF COUNSEL, ARTHUR COX, SOLICITORS

Laura is Of Counsel in the Environment & Planning Group. She is a former Barrister, whose practice and experience covers all areas of environmental, planning, infrastructure, and health and safety law. Laura has extensive experience across the full spectrum of Planning, Environmental and Health & Safety law and has played a key role in advising on some of the most complex and significant transactions and litigation over the last 5 years. She has a special focus on risk-assessing major infrastructural, housing and energy projects. Laura regularly advises on matters arising out of the pre-planning, planning, development and funding of projects, with a regular focus on housing and renewables. She also has a particular specialism in the adversarial areas of planning judicial review, injunctive relief and criminal enforcement proceedings.

Laura will provide an overview of some of the 'hot topics' in environmental law relevant to those working in the EHS sector.

11.00 **COFFEE BREAK**

11.15 **Theme – Remote Working**

Working from home – what are we seeing, what are we being asked?

PAULA GOUGH, PROGRAMME MANAGER, CHEMICALS and PREVENTION DIVISION, HEALTH and SAFETY AUTHORITY

Paula Gough is a Programme Manager with the Health and Safety Authority, where she has worked for the past 21 years. Paula has won national and international awards for safety innovation. She is the Irish Government Representative on the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health to the EU Commission. She lectures in TCD on the Post Graduate H&S in Construction course.

Paula will speak about putting a homeworking policy in place, employers' and employees' responsibilities, the practical steps to take to successfully implement homeworking and some of the issues you should look out for and finally, possible changes at EU level that may influence remote working.

Transitioning to working from home overnight

LIAM McMUNN, ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER, CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND

With over 23 years' experience in the safety, environment and risk management industry, Liam is also the Access Officer for the Central Bank of Ireland and has helped the Bank achieve multiple awards in occupational safety and accessible design. During his twelve years at the Bank, he has overseen the development and implementation of a fully integrated ISO certified management system for safety, environment and energy across all locations and operations, including an extensive Display Screen Equipment process of training, risk assessment and ergonomic intervention for office and remote working. An advocate of better safety and accessibility through good design, in 2018 he presented at the UN HQ in Vienna on the universal design of the Bank's newest offices at North Wall Quay.

Liam will speak about managing the transition of over two thousand employees from the relative safety of a controlled office environment to unknown and remote places of work. Liam will cover the steps taken to support staff quickly and effectively under unprecedented circumstances and as remote working develops, how the lessons we have learnt can be applied in the future.

The legal issues around safe return to work, remote working

KEVIN LANGFORD, PARTNER, ARTHUR COX, SOLICITORS

Kevin is a partner in the Employment Law Group of Arthur Cox LLP. He advises corporate clients in a wide range of sectors, including pharmaceutical, healthcare and life sciences, technology, financial services and insurance, transport, manufacturing, distribution and retail. He also advises statutory bodies, Governmental and public institutions, universities, cultural institutions, schools and hospitals. He represents clients before the Workplace Relations Commission, the Labour Court and the civil courts in defending claims relating to a wide variety of employment-related matters such as unfair dismissal, equality/discrimination, occupational stress, fixed-term and part-time work, restraint of trade, strikes, picketing, trade disputes and in industrial relations matters. Kevin advises employers on workplace investigations, protected disclosures/whistleblowing and crisis management issues. He frequently advises law firms in other jurisdictions on matters relating to Irish employment law and is a CEDR-accredited mediator. Kevin is a member of the Arthur Cox Health and Safety Group and represents employers in investigations by the Health and Safety Authority in the defence of criminal prosecutions relating to health & safety.

Kevin will consider the key legal issues involved in managing a safe return to the workplace; vaccinations and vaccination status; hybrid working and the right to disconnect.

12.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

12.45 **Theme – Judicial Council Personal Injury Guidelines**

Is this a new era for PI claims?

MICHAEL CORRIGAN, PARTNER, CORRIGAN & CORRIGAN, SOLICITORS

Michael Corrigan is a partner in the Dublin firm of Corrigan & Corrigan. He is one of the most experienced insurance-related litigation solicitors in the country. He is currently the President of the Forum of Insurance Lawyers – Ireland. He is the co-author of 'A Casebook of Irish Insurance Law'.

Michael will talk about how the Judicial Guidelines on Personal Injuries implemented earlier this year are being applied and whether they will be a watershed in Irish personal injuries litigation. He will also offer his views on how the Guidelines are likely to be viewed by the judiciary at every level of the Irish court system, with particular emphasis on the implications the new legal regime will have for those defending and responding to personal injury claims.

The Evolving Personal Injuries Landscape

The speaker will be a senior PIAB executive.

The speaker will cover the insurance and claims reform process and recent developments in the personal injuries landscape, including the new personal injuries guidelines and their implementation.

2.00 **CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

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BOOKING FORM

HSR Conference 2021

September 23rd

DELIVERY ONLINE VIRTUAL EVENT

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