



The Devon and Cornwall Meeting Centre for the Institute of Clerk of Works and Construction Inspectorate. Newsletter May 2016

Next meeting Thursday 16th June 2016 at the
Black Horse Inn, Clyst, Honiton, Exeter, Devon, EX5 2AN

The meeting on Thursday 16th June will bring with it our first Meeting Centre ICWCI membership interview.

Following some lengthy debates within the group and some very interesting, informative and stabilising workshops; the Meeting Centre, with the backing of the Institute, has been granted the privilege of carrying out membership interviews, the first being held on the 16th June.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Institute for having the faith and conviction in us as a group and Meeting Centre, I would also like to thank on behalf of the group Jerry Shoobred for conducting the initial interview panel workshop.

Congratulations Jeff Heath

Jeff has become the newest ICWCI member for the Devon and Cornwall Meeting Centre following his successful interview and achieving LICWCI.



Well done Jeff on behalf of everyone at the Devon and Cornwall Meeting Centre.

Below is an article taken from the Construction Manager (CIOB) magazine

Contractors warned to expect more big safety fines

Industry likely to see further stiff sentences following Balfour's £2.6m payout for trench collapse

The £2.6m fine imposed on Balfour Beatty last month for a fatal trench collapse signals a new era of multi-million-pound payouts for serious accidents, a leading safety adviser has predicted.

"We are seeing significant increases in fines - potentially a five to tenfold rise - under the new sentencing guidelines which came into force in February," said Neal Stone, deputy chief executive at the British Safety Council, one of the UK's largest safety advisory bodies.

Large contractors, defined by the Sentencing Council as firms with a turnover above £50m, can be fined up to £20m under the new guidelines. However, Stone pointed out that this is not a cap.

"The wording says, 'Where an offending organisation's turnover or equivalent very greatly exceeds the threshold for large organisations, it may be necessary to move outside the suggested range to achieve a proportionate sentence,'" he said.

"I know of one leading QC who has publicly stated that a £100m fine is not inconceivable"
Neal Stone,
British Safety
Council

"So where deaths are involved, where there is a high degree of culpability, where it involves a large organisation, the fines could be much higher. I know of one leading QC who has publicly stated that a £100m fine is not inconceivable."

Stone said that past fines had been "derisory" and that the Council's 1,200 corporate construction members supported the change to the sentencing guidelines.

The fine handed out to Balfour Beatty, one of the largest ever in the construction sector, followed a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into the death of a 32-year-old working under subcontract for the firm's utility business on 14 April 2010.

It followed a £2m fine handed out to Travis Perkins after a customer was killed by a company vehicle at the builders merchants' yard at Wolverton, Milton Keynes in November 2012.

The length of the time it took for the cases to come to court is another matter for concern, said Stone.

"Justice is not served by such delays," he added. "Murder trials don't take six years."

Last November, trade union UCATT criticised the HSE for an eight-year investigation into a death on a south London demolition site, for which contractor 777 was fined £215,000.

The HSE said that "several complex investigations... meant average time taken between an incident and a prosecution has increased" in recent years, but that 80% of prosecutions were approved within three years.

HSE figures show there were 258 prosecution cases in 2014/15, 243 (94%) of which resulted in a guilty verdict for at least one offence. The resulting fines from these prosecutions totalled £3,976,000.



NOTIFICATION OF THE DEATH OF A MEMBER

It is with great sadness that we announce that the Institute has lost a number of members over the past month and I ask that we all take a moment to pay our respects to each and every one.

Our thoughts are with their family and friends.

Mr Peter Lennon FICWCI
Mr Kenneth Smith LICWCI
Mr Anthony Wilcock MICWCI
Mr David Frank Belfield MICWCI

The Devon and Cornwall Meeting Centre members with Jerry Shoolbred & David Hayward following our interview workshop



If there is anything members would like me to include in the next newsletter please contact me on the email address below. I am still waiting for everyone to provide a short profile of themselves for me to include in the newsletter.

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