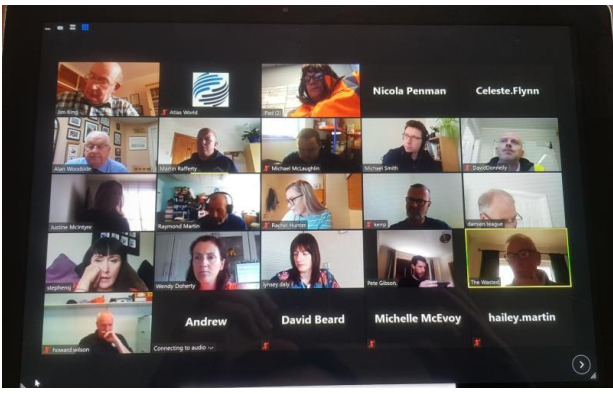


Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum
Northern Ireland
MINUTES
Tuesday 12th May 2020 – 14:00
(Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Attendance	
1.1	Present: 	
1.2	Apologies: Heather Wilson (BIFFA), Andrew (Plaswire) & Anne Coyle (Recon Waste Management).	
2.	<u>Notification of any other business</u> None	
3.	<u>Update on NI Government Advice / Position</u>	
3.1	JK emphasised NI will be following different measures compared to the rest of the UK and had released their own 5 stage plan for lifting restrictions.	
4.	<u>Planning basis for future advice.</u>	
4.1	GB outlined a meeting had taken place this week with the environment minister and various individuals from different waste organisations in NI. It was highlighted there has been a problem with storing waste due to an increase in the amount of waste being produced.	GB to provide further information.
4.2	Covid-19 officers are to come into force to monitor workplaces to remove pressure from the HSENI.	
5.	<u>Existing WISHNI advice and changes needed.</u>	
5.1	JK noted the guidance available on the HSENI website would require being updated in line with changes in government advice.	JK
	These will be updated and reuploaded to the HSENI website and shared on LinkedIn / email circulation.	JK, PG & RH.
5.2	JK also noted the use of the risk assessment template on the HSENI website.	

<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>What the future will look like at work - practical safety precautions</u></p> <p>JS raised the use of masks and PPE as a control measure for Covid-19. JS stated masks were being used for the reassurance factor and were only being enforced where employees cannot socially distance.</p> <p>MR stated the HSENI are not endorsing the use of masks and companies should determine the requirement using risk assessment. MR highlighted the need to provide information regarding how to use the PPE appropriately and have a procedure for disposal. Social distancing followed by handwashing and hygiene are the most important control measures which should be enforced. Use of screens and PPE should be a last resort.</p> <p>JM highlighted the government appear to be encouraging the use of face coverings at the discretion of the employee in comparison with the use of protective face masks.</p> <p>DT commented that masks were only being used in Regen. where the 2-metre social distancing policy cannot be enforced.</p>	
<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p>	<p><u>Mental health aspects for workers in sites and for working at home</u></p> <p>DD commented that the signs of anxiety is evident among employees, however stated extra effort has been made to create and encourage positive morale. DD added several employees have been trained as mental health first aiders should anything arise.</p> <p>MMc outlined that communication and contact has been really important during these times and ensuring understanding of personal circumstances is considered. Childcare issues seem to be the biggest problem among employees.</p> <p>NP highlighted the importance of using the HSENI management standards NP advised the use of distributing factsheets and materials among employees and pointing employees in the direction of online resources. NP emphasised the importance of considering employee wellbeing as part of the company covid-19 risk assessment.</p> <p>GB stressed the importance of a clear communication plan. GB also highlighted the use of the CIWM online resources.</p> <p>JS highlighted the use of Aware mindfulness sessions available online and signposting employees to these services.</p>	

8.	<u>What good practice looks like now - reports on actions taken by members</u>	
8.1	LD explained within the council they are operating on an appointment system which is working well. They have also limited waste to 6 black bin bags worth and have outlined that their own staff cannot assist with disposing of this waste due to social distancing guidelines.	
8.2	PK noted they have implemented staggered starts to reduce the number of employees at the clock in machine in the mornings.	
8.3	Avenue Recycling now have had lines permanently marked indicating social distancing. They have also supplied masks to employees and noted their tonnage has increased significantly.	
9.	<u>Any other business</u>	
9.1	<p>Questions were raised from Recon Waste Management at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>MMc is to provide information regarding the thermal cameras they are using onsite which are working well for them</p> <p>GB is to forward on any information in relation to the GDPR in relation to the use of temperature checking. GB highlighted he knew a number of companies who had introduced the thermal cameras, and this is working well for them.</p> <p>PG is also to share information regarding the thermal cameras available through Atlas World.</p> <p>JK highlighted the importance of disinfecting clock in machines between use. Most members mentioned they were using face scanning instead.</p>	<p>MMc.</p> <p>GB</p> <p>PG</p>
7.3	It was also highlighted the importance of considering the risk of dementias from over use of hand sanitiser. Members recommended purchasing barrier creams for employees or moisturising sanitisers where possible.	
7.4	RM highlighted the best approach is to use soap and hot water. RM stressed the importance of hot water rather than cold. RM also advised he would share research information with the group regarding best methods of hygiene controls for covid-19.	RM
8.	Date of next meeting: To be confirmed.	
Signed		<i>R Hunter.</i>
Date		19/05/2020