

COU12D054

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Issue

This report is a routine report updating Council on health and safety information relating to the University.

However, the University Health and Safety Executive (UHASE) also wishes to draw Council's attention to the large cost of work needing to be undertaken on the university's buildings to bring them to an appropriate fire safety standard.

Recommendation

Members are asked to receive this report and to note in particular the comments relating to fire safety standards.

Resource Implications

Currently (as of 11th January 2013) the costs for the outstanding identified work to address requirements (identified in fire risk assessments) stand at £1,144,589.

In 2012/13 £60,000 was allocated in the university budgets to address this work.

A Central Unit Budget bid has been submitted for £500,000 for each of the budget years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Risk Implications

Addressing the requirements of fire risk assessments and ensuring that there are appropriate fire precautions are statutory requirements on the university.

Inadequate safety standards put the wellbeing (and lives) of members of the university, and visitors, at greater risk.

Equality and Diversity

There are no equality or diversity implications with respect to the contents of this report.

Timing of decisions

Not applicable

Further Information

Requests for further information or queries may be addressed to the Director of Safety Services p.donson@uea.ac.uk Tel: 01603 592199.

Background

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 places a duty on the University (as an employer and controller of premises) to carry out a mandatory detailed fire risk assessment identifying the risks and hazards in the premises. The requirement to undertake fire risk assessments was also required by previous legislation.

Discussion

The fire risk assessments that have been carried out at the university have identified a significant number of deficiencies in the fire precautions and facilities in the university buildings. The work to address these deficiencies has been identified but has been unable to be undertaken due to budgetary constraints over several years.

The need to undertake this work does not arise from new standards of fire safety being imposed on the university. There have been very few changes in national fire safety standard requirements over the last couple of decades. When the university buildings were built they would undoubtedly have had suitable fire protected construction standards. Wear and tear of the buildings/equipment/fittings, refurbishment of areas, and provision of new cabling (and other services) over the years have taken their toll.

Safety Services and Estates are preparing detailed information, identifying priorities, to be submitted in support of the Central Unit Budget bid for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

Other H&S Information –(for receipt only)

This report is one in a series of regular reports that have been requested to be provided by the University Health and Safety Executive (UHASE) to Council.

This report covers the period 1st April 2012 to 31st January 2013.

Reporting of accident data to Council

Currently accident and fire data is reported for national statistics collection on a calendar year basis. However this will change in 2013 when national statistics will start to be reported on for the academic year, instead.

This report provides data for the calendar year 2012.

For future Reports to Council, an annual set of accident and fire related statistics will be provided in the first report that is provided after the end of the national statistics reporting period each year (31st July). (Details of significant fire events and accidents, incidents or occupational diseases that occur after 31st but within the period covered by the Report to Council will also be provided).

For the 2nd Report to Council of the year no set of accident or fire statistics will be provided. The Report will include details of significant fire events and accidents, incidents or occupational diseases¹ that occur within the period covered .

Accidents and Incidents

The number of accidents recorded in 2012 are very similar to the those in 2011, except for fewer recorded accidents for students:

	2012	2011
Total	186	207
Staff	130	135
Students	19	36
Others	28	27
Reportable	9	9

Reportable accidents¹

As of 6 April 2012, RIDDOR's over-three-day injury reporting requirement has changed. The trigger point has increased from over three days' to over seven days' incapacitation (not counting the day on which the accident happened). Reportable accidents are categorized into *deaths*, *major injuries*, *over 3-day injuries* (accidents which result in incapacity for work for more than three consecutive days) , and *dangerous occurrences* (certain incidents which have the potential for causing serious injury without actually having done so). The university is also required to report any accident to a non-employee which resulted in their being taken to hospital.

There were 9 reportable accidents in 2012 of which one is in the major injury category.

¹ for which there is a legal requirement to report under RIDDOR Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

The major injury:

- a lecturer fractured her leg when she slipped over on entering a building.

There were two **over three day** accidents (up to 6th April):

- a cleaner was hurt after slipping on animal droppings on a footpath.
- a cleaner suffered bruising when he tripped over while carrying waste bags.

Since 6th April, there has been one **over seven day** accident:

- a cleaner injured her hand as a result of slipping on a drain cover.

Five members of the public have been **taken to hospital** as a result of accidents at the university:

- A student hurt her knee when she fell while leaning over from a sitting position on a chair.
- A visitor was hurt after tripping over a raised paving slab.
- A student scalded her hand making a cup of tea in a catering outlet.
- A visitor was bruised her knee as a result of tripping over a raised paving slab.
- A visitor hurt his wrist as a result of slipping on ice on a pavement.

A Report of a Disease was made due to a maintenance worker developing bursitis.

In January 2013, there have been two members who have been **taken to hospital** as a result of accidents at the university:

- a student was cut when a glass flask broke in his hand.
- an employee of a company based on campus was hurt after slipping on ice in the car park.

Fire Safety

There were 16 reported Fires in 2012.

Date	Building/Area	Cause Of Fire
10/1/12	Mary Chapman Court	Cooking
21/2/12	Colman House	Cooking
9/3/12	Chemistry	Chemical reacting with water
28/3/12	External on walkway	Cigarette in bin
24/4/12	University Village	Cooking
10/5/12	Nelson Court	Cooking
24/5/12	Outside Suffolk Terrace	Disposable BBQ put in bin
3/6/12	Paston House	Cooking
11/8/12	Outside Earlham Hall	Arson
29/8/12	Constable Terrace	Student burning shoeboxes in room
31/8/12	Biomass	Smouldering within reactor
6/9/12	SCVA	Seal on extractor burnt out
12/9/12	Outside Orwell Close	Pile of leaves set alight
22/9/12	Nelson Court	Cooking
14/10/12	Suffolk Terrace	Cooking
15/11/12	Chemistry	Chemical discarded in bin

Fire alarm activations

Calendar year	All buildings	Residential buildings	Non-residential buildings	No. attended by fire brigade	% attended by fire brigade
2012	204	147	57	6	2.94
2011	270	226	44	10	3.7
2010	449	376	73	15	3.34
2009	444	360	84	11	2
2008	410	340	70	18	4
2007	397	310	87	63	16
2006	241	153	88	147	61

Legislation changes during the period of the report

The *Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012* came into force on 6 April 2012, in practice the changes are fairly limited. They mean that some types of non-licensed work with asbestos now have additional requirements, i.e. notification of work, medical surveillance and record keeping. All other requirements remain unchanged.

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) new cost recovery scheme, Fee for Intervention (FFI), came into force on 1st October. Under The *Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations 2012*, those who break health and safety laws are liable for recovery of HSE's related costs, including, inspection, investigation and taking enforcement action.

Upcoming legislation

The HSE is proposing to introduce new regulations that are provisionally titled *The Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013*. These regulations are required under European Council Directive 2010/32/EU on the prevention of sharps injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector. The new regulations will require employers in the healthcare sector to introduce arrangements for the safe use and disposal of medical sharps, to provide information and training to employees, and to record, investigate and take action following a sharps injury. The regulations will also introduce a duty on healthcare workers to promptly report any sharps injury to their employer. While the new regulations relate to health care employers and employers who provide services to the health care sector, the use of sharps in the university's laboratories should be reviewed to at least meet any standards for managing sharps that are brought in by these new regulations.

New guidance relevant to HE Sector

Working Safely with Nanomaterials in Research and Development - developed by The UK Nanosafety Partnership Group (UKNSPG) and is aimed at employers, managers, health and safety advisors, and users of particulate nanomaterials in research and development.

Health and Safety in Research - general guidance document from the Universities Safety and Health Association (USHA) on management arrangements for undertaking research activities.

USHA's 2012 Benchmark Survey

The Universities Safety & Health Association (USHA) has produced a benchmarking survey in December 2012 based on responses from 96 universities.

http://www.usha.org.uk/images/stories/files/UHSA_%202012_%20BenchmarkingStudy_FinalReport191212.pdf

Data is provided in the report on health and safety staffing levels in the universities.

Of 37 universities with student numbers between 10,000 and 20,000, the average FTE staffing levels (for the roles undertaken by Safety Services at UEA) was :

General H&S Advisors	1.7
Fire Safety Officers	1.2
Safety Training Officers	0.6
H&S Auditors	0.7
Radiation Protection Officers	0.7

Giving a total average FTE staffing per university of 4.7 safety practitioners. In addition these offices had, on average, 1.3 FTE admin support and 1.2 FTE H&S Technicians.

Current staffing levels in Safety Services are: 3 FTE safety practitioners, 0.7 FTE admin and 1 H&S Technician.

Attachments

None.