

MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – JULY 2010

1. Health and Safety Report

The latest Health & Safety Report is attached at Appendix 1.

In both Leeds and Manchester, we are having to manage a growing pressure for parts of the network to be fenced off. This would be both impractical and unaffordable and would not in our view lead to any significant safety improvement.

2. Update on Spending Review and Third Sector

I will provide the Board with a verbal update including our work on planning for grant cuts and the latest position on the Third Sector proposals.

3. Cost Analysis

In advance of my verbal update on our plans to deal with potential grant cuts, I attach a schedule setting out the income, payroll, costs, contribution and staff numbers involved in the major areas of activity under each directorate.



ROBIN EVANS

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENT – JULY 2010**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report covers the period May to July 2010. The format of the report is in line with the format of reports presented at each Board meeting during the year and covers the four areas of risk – Assets, Visitors, Contractors/Volunteers, and our People.

2.0 ASSETS**2.1 Asset Management**

2.1.1 The audit work is continuing in a risk prioritised order on D graded assets. In addition, work continues on the location and review of pre 2004 (pre-SAP) principal inspection reports to ensure that they are properly recorded and that recommended actions have either been undertaken or reviewed by management and such decisions recorded. Work is complete on embankments and will continue in risk priority order. Work on culverts has now commenced.

2.1.2 Research based on our Breach Register is progressing well, with the aim to target maintenance expenditure on high consequence of failure locations whether principal or non-principal asset related. The Audit Committee will receive a presentation on the project at their next meeting.

2.2 Property

2.2.1 Progress continues on safety compliance across all property classes.

2.2.2 The management of the vacant property that BW hold remains one of the most significant health and safety risks. Each vacant property has a safety risk assessment in accordance with the BW Standards and the hazards identified are to be communicated to visitors and managing agents.

2.2.3 The development of an Asbestos Management Plan is being progressed. It is intended that this plan will run across all BW operational and non-operational property and assets.

2.2.4 There are still residential properties for which no current statutory service test certificates are held. These numbers are reducing and these will be completed in advance of the target of October 2010.

3.0 VISITOR SAFETY

3.1 There has been no reportable injury to a Member of the Public since the last report.

3.2 A meeting was held with the Manchester Coroner who has been concerned about the number of fatalities where the deceased has ended up in the city centre canals. We were able to reassure him that our partnership with Manchester City Council, Greater Manchester Police and Fire and Rescue services was developing strategies to deal with the issues.

3.3 Recent "Facebook" internet campaigns have occurred as a result of 2 deaths over the past year in Leeds City centre. We are working in partnership with Leeds City Council and local land owners to see how these issues can be addressed. We have no land ownership in this area.

4.0 CONTRACTORS

4.1 There were no reportable incidents involving contractors working for BW.

5.0 VOLUNTEERS

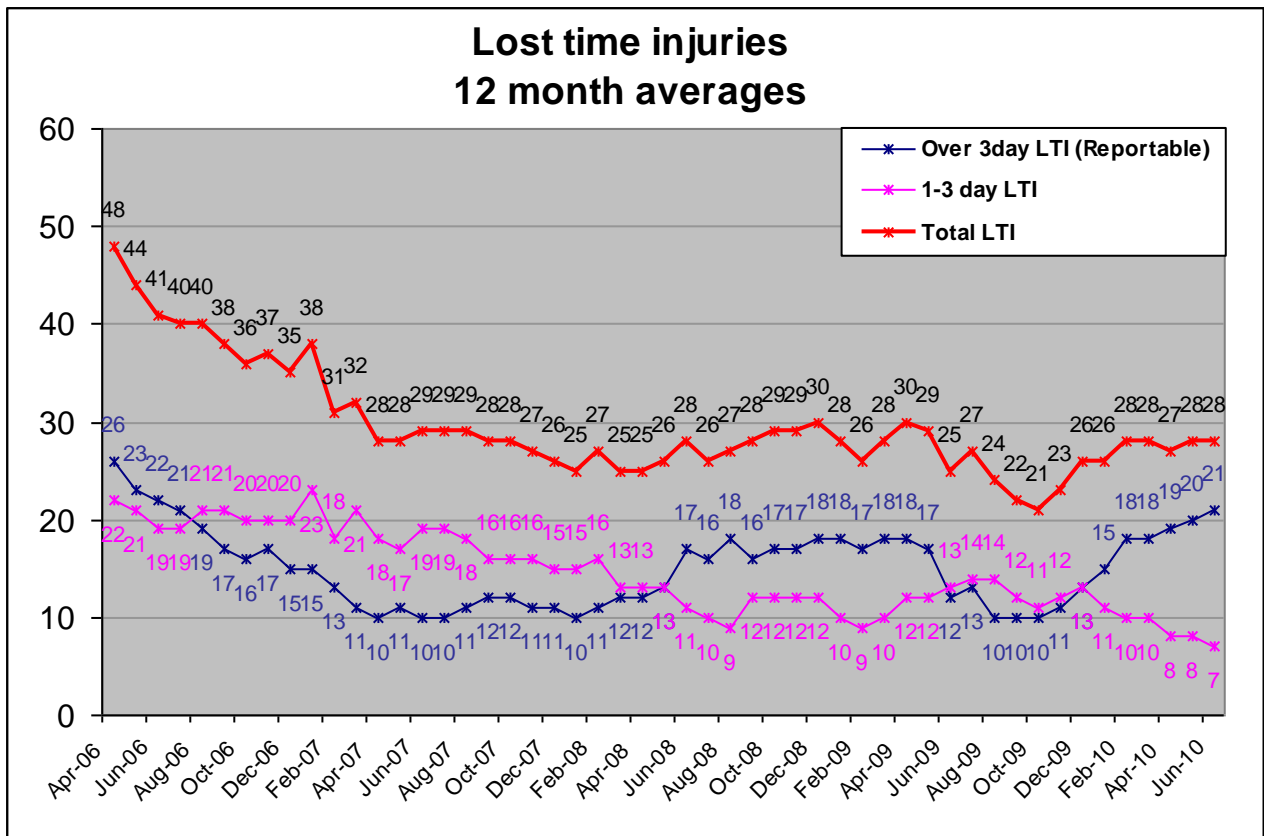
5.1 A volunteer working in the SW&S waterway on the Monmouth & Brecon Canal suffered broken bones in his hand when another volunteer closed the minibus side door as he returned to the crew bus. The volunteer was back working after 1 day off.

6.0 EMPLOYEE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 Lost Time Injuries

6.1.1 The trend line in total Lost Time Injuries has shown no improvement in the period. The length of time taken off by injured employees has resulted in the continued growth in over 3 day injuries and a reduction in 1-3 day absences which have offset each other. It is unlikely that the trend will improve until the poor performance last winter is removed from the statistics.

6.1.2 Performance Statistics



6.2 Safety Benchmarks

6.2.1 In the period of this report, our performance measurement against the Construction Industry Safety Benchmark slipped back to 58%. Several years ago, we set ourselves the target of reaching the top quartile of companies and have done this several times but are unable to consistently stay there. We firmly believe that further improvement will be linked directly to improvements in behavioural safety and implementing the action plan that has been developed.

6.3 Progress against Targets 2010/11

- 20% reduction in lost time injuries to B.W. employees (start point 28, March 2010) – *No Change*
- 10% reduction in Manual Handling injuries (start point 16, March 2010) - *progress 19 for 12 months to June 2010 - 18% Increase*
- 10% reduction in Slip/Trip/Fall injuries (start point 32, March 2010) - *progress 27 for 12 months to June 2010 – 15% Decrease*
- 300 worksite safety audits by management team members - *progress to the end of June 2010 – 73 site audits, 72 safe behaviour discussions*
- Achieve 100% of visitor risk assessment plan – *87% reported complete (subject to audit)*

6.4 Lost Time Incidents

6.4.1 The following Lost Time Injuries were reported since the last Board Report:

6.4.2 **22/4/2010 - Over 3 Day Injury, Tardebigge flight, Worcester & Birmingham Canal.**

A Length Inspector was undertaking the annual inspection on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal over the week he operated a considerable number of lock paddles as part of his inspection which resulted in a sprain to his chest muscles. Paddle forces have been measured and remedial maintenance carried out to make easier to operate.

6.4.3 **20/5/2010 - Over 3 Day Injury. Huddersfield Canal Locks 34 to 35.**

An operative was walking between locks 34 to 35 when he stood on a large stone on the towpath which resulted a twisted ankle. He worked for the rest of the day but his ankle gave way again causing him to fall over. Gary went to see the local A&E and had it X-rayed which showed no fracture. Guidance will be issue to employees how to manage a minor injuries to prevent escalation of the injury severity.

6.4.4 **26/6/2010 - Over 3 Day Injury, Clachnaharry Works Lock**

While locking a vessel through Clachnaharry lock, the seasonal lock keeper suffered a hairline fracture and some bruising after falling into the lock. The stern of the vessel involved was secured by the crew but as the line was incorrectly placed the lock keeper wanted to change the position further aft. While picking up the stern line and turning the hook through 180 degrees, the lock keeper stumbled and fell into the lock chamber. The lifejacket inflated correctly but rose up from the back squashing her face. The crew of the vessel assisted her to the lock ladder where she managed to climb out. Possible contributory factor was some uneven and dilapidated coping stones. These are to be replaced in line with previous inspections and notifications also crutch straps to be made available for lifejackets to prevent riding up

7.0 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

- 7.1 There have been 2 cases of occupational ill health (Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome) since the last Board Health and Safety report. Both employees have long service with British Waterways and have been involved in piling operations. The exposure is historic and both employees have not recently been exposed to vibrating equipment. The early stage diagnosis has resulted in no specific action as the employees are not engaged work which will expose them to risk. HSE have indicated they will be making a visit to review the cases.

COST ANALYSIS 2010/11

	Income £m	Payroll £m	Other Costs £m	Contribution £m	Employees
INCOME					
Boat licences	16.8	1.5	1.4	13.8	65
Moorings	6.0	0.3	1.7	4.0	12
Other leisure	6.5	0.8	1.0	4.6	18
Property	28.7	2.9	6.4	19.4	38
Utilities	22.2	0.4	0.7	21.0	10
JVs	(2.9)	0.4		(3.3)	4
BWML	7.0	2.0	4.0	1.0	94
Sub-Total	84.3	8.3	15.2	60.5	241
Defra Grant	47.0			47.0	
TOTAL INCOME	131.3	8.3	15.2	107.5	241
EXPENDITURE					
Core Maintenance					
Operations	7.5	28.2	38.0	(58.0)	1060
Major works & Tech support		7.0	24.3	(31.2)	163
Sub-Total	7.5	35.2	62.3	(89.2)	1223
Regeneration	17.0	2.4	18.0	(3.0)	52
The Waterways Trust			0.9	(0.9)	1
Central Expenditure					
Board & Exec (incl. Nat offices)	0.2	2.4	1.2	(3.5)	22
Legal / Secretariat / Int Audit		0.8	1.1	(1.9)	12
HR		0.9	1.0	(1.9)	25
Pension Deficit			1.6	(1.6)	
Finance & Shared Services		2.8	1.0	(3.8)	67
ICT		1.1	5.3	(6.4)	28
Marketing & Customer Relations		1.6	2.1	(3.7)	42
Local Offices	0.12		3.0	(3.0)	
Central Exp contrn from Scotland			(1.5)	1.5	
Rates			1.0	(1.0)	
Sub-Total	0.2	9.6	14.3	(25.3)	197
TOTALS	24.7	47.2	95.5	(118.4)	1473
Scotland (incl. Grant)	17.5	6.7	10.4	0.4	234
GRAND TOTAL	173.5	62.2	121.1	(10.5)	1948