



Questionnaire for Key Stakeholders (2018)

The Mandate of the Health and Safety Authority:

- To regulate and promote the safety, health and welfare of people at work and those affected by work activities.
- To regulate and promote the safe manufacture, use, placing on the market, trade and transport of chemicals.
- To act as a surveillance authority in relation to relevant single European market legislation.
- To act as the national accreditation body.

Context:

The Health and Safety Authority has started to develop our Strategy for 2019-2021. Up-front, through a brief questionnaire/discussion, we want to seek the views of a number of key stakeholders. The questionnaire will augment rather than replace our Public Consultation process planned for April, 2018 timeframe.

Our objectives are to:

1. Identify which HSA activities are valued most by our key stakeholders
2. Understand the impact HSA is having (qualitative and quantitative)
3. Seek stakeholder's views on future trends; what might impact their organisations and the HSA?
4. Understand how stakeholders could potentially support or promote HSA activities

All inputs will be treated confidentially and synthesised to help us shape our Strategy 2019-2021.

Process:

I am attaching 4 questions for you to reflect on in advance of our meeting and look forward to a good discussion then.

Thank you for your participation

1. What activities of the HSA bring value to your organisation and what impact have they had?

- It could be qualitative, e.g. (increased awareness, topic on agendas) and / or quantitative, e.g. (a numerical trend downwards, number of events, people engaged with, legislative changes)

- As an organization we regularly report the HSA fatal statistics in agriculture at member meetings to highlight the importance of health and safety on farms.
- The topic is regularly included in our quarterly newsletter which has a member reach in excess of 13,000 farm families.

2. Looking to the future, what trends can you identify that might impact your organisation and what do you think the HSA should be particularly aware of?

- Trends for farm deaths are consistently on the rise despite best efforts to prevent them. Dairy farmers seem to be most vulnerable in the industry, HSA need to appreciate the increased level of pressure and stress dairy farmers are under as a consequence of recent expansion and a shortage of labour.
- Department of Agriculture Cross Compliance inspections put farmers under significant pressure and can take their toll on their mental health. Work related stress is under the remit of the HSA and this aspect should not be ignored. The HSA should liaise with the Department of Agriculture to consider how to make these inspections less stressful.
- In line with the previous point, many deadlines for farm payments are in Spring, to reduce workload on farms these deadlines should be changed to a time when farmers have more time to complete them.

3. What should the HSA stop, start or do differently? (please consider What the HSA does & How we do it)?

- Regularly updated statistics of farm injuries that do not result in death would be most useful to specifically target actions that cause the most injuries.
- Though not the remit of the HSA, there is a labour shortage in the agriculture sector. Activities that encourage young people into the industry need to be supported.
- Inspections by the HSA need to provide guidance to the farmer on opportunities for improvement. Imposing deadlines and fines puts more pressure on farmers which isn't necessary. A "carrot approach" should be adopted to make change on farms following inspections.

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4. How could your organisation support or promote the activities of the HSA?

- As previously mentioned health and safety is highlighted at all member meeting, regular updates from the HSA can be promoted at these meetings.