

Stress Conference WORKSHOP 8: *The HSE Management Standards in times of recession*

The Workshop focussed on ways of achieving reductions in employee stress levels even in times of austerity through the use of Health & Safety legislation and guidance, in particular the 'Management Standards for Work Related Stress'.

In pre-discussion activities it emerged that whilst in the case of some delegates their employers were failing on virtually every measure, for the majority there were particular problems in the areas of job demands and workplace behaviours, including bullying.

Examples of the HSE and Stress Network audit forms were distributed and discussed and attention was drawn to additional sources of information listed in the new Stress Network booklet.

Following a brief presentation, attached, there was general discussion. One Safety Representative delegate had achieved substantial advances in her workplace by organising the workforce, gathering evidence and persuading her employer to establish effective health and safety structures involving the trade unions through which the processes outlined in the Management Standards could be implemented. Whilst other delegates had also made some progress, others were facing severe difficulties. All agreed that the exchange of information and the opportunity to learn from good practice both in the Workshop and generally throughout the Conference was extremely valuable.

Les Roberts

Workshop leader