

# Arnotes *ohs*

A monthly round-up of occupational health & safety news – compiled by Arno Consulting

14 February 2016 (Vol. 14, No. 2)

**Government, gangmasters** The Gangmasters Licensing Authority is set for a revamp that will enlarge its reach to all employment sectors, including construction. [IOSH](#)

**HSE, legionella** The HSE has endorsed new guidance from the Water Management Society on the control of legionella in dry/wet cooling systems. [HSE](#)

**HSE, MSDs** The HSE has added a new page to its website providing information on MSD risks within the cleaning industry, replacing guidance HSG234. [HSE](#)

**HSE, barrier glands** The HSE has issued a Safety Notice on the use of barrier glands in potentially explosive atmospheres. [HSE](#)

**Courts, work-at-height** Three companies have been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling over £100,000 after a worker was seriously injured when he fell nearly six metres from a platform with unguarded rails on a site in East London. [HSE](#)

**Courts, work-at-height** Two companies have been ordered to pay fines totalling £135,000 after two workers were seriously injured when the roof lids of a partly constructed cold store in North Lanarkshire collapsed whilst they were working on them. [HSE](#)

**Courts, schools** A private school in Hertfordshire has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £140,000 after a 13-year-old pupil suffered permanent paralysis when a wooden swing in an adventure playground collapsed onto her because the supporting timbers had rotted. [HSE](#)

**Courts, health & care** The NHS Litigation Authority has been fined after a man on a mobility scooter fell 12 feet to his death from an elevated walkway outside a Hampshire health centre. [HSE](#)

**Costs, electricity** A farming company in Cornwall has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £112,000 after a worker helping harvest potatoes was electrocuted when the harvesting machine he was standing on brought down an overhead power line. [BBC](#); [HSE](#)

**Courts, fork lift trucks** Retail store chain Wilko has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling almost £400,000 after an employee was killed in a crash between two fork lift trucks at the firm's distribution centre in Worksop, Nottinghamshire. [Bassetlaw Council](#); [IOSH](#)

**Courts, legionella** Reading Council has been ordered to pay £120,000 in fines & costs after a 95-year-old man died from legionella-related pneumonia after staying at a Council-run facility. [HSE](#)

**Courts, ports** An Essex port operator has been hit with fines & costs of £1.8 million after a worker suffered serious injuries after his arm became wrapped around a powered capstan. [HSE](#); [IOSH](#)

**Courts, health & care** An NHS trust has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £132,000 after an 87-year-old man suffered fatal injuries after falling from a hoist at a Trust-run facility. [HSE](#)

**Courts, construction** Two building companies have been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling more than £200,000 after a worker was seriously injured when an old brick culvert under a road in Kent collapsed on him while he was helping to repair it. [HSE](#)

**Courts, cranes** A Glasgow port operator has been fined £300,000 after a maintenance engineer suffered fatal crush injuries when he became trapped between the drive motors on top of the cab of an unloader crane and the cross beams of the crane's boom. [HSE](#); [IOSH](#)

**Courts, cranes** Construction firm Balfour Beatty has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling more than £1 million after a worker died after he was hit on the head by a lorry-mounted crane while he was helping to repair a central reservation barrier on the A2 in Kent. [HSE](#); [IOSH](#)

**Courts, gas** National Grid Gas has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £1 million after a worker in North Lincolnshire became trapped for an hour between two gas pipes. [HSE](#)

**Courts, machinery** The Office of Chief Constable of West Midlands Police has been fined after a firearms officer lost the tip of his trigger finger while cutting up a confiscated machine gun. [HSE](#)

**Courts, electricity** UK Power Networks has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £1 million after a jogger was electrocuted by a low-hanging high voltage power cable in Essex. [BBC](#); [HSE](#)

**Courts, transport** A Cheshire-based haulage firm has been ordered to pay almost £160,000 in fines & costs after an employee was killed while trying to connect a cab to a lorry trailer. [HSE](#)

**Courts, tree felling** A further education college in Surrey has been fined after a student suffered fractures to one of his legs after he was hit by a tree as it was being felled. [HSE](#)

**Courts, storage** A Cheshire construction company has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £400,000 after a worker sustained fatal crush injuries when a pack of bricks fell on him. [HSE](#)

**Courts, waste & recycling** A scrap metal recycling company based in Sheffield has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £160,000 after a worker was killed when he was hit on the head by part of a gas cylinder when it exploded after being put through a shearing machine. [HSE](#)

**Courts, chemicals** A chemical company has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £440,000 after a dangerous gas escaped from the company's plant in Oldbury, West Midlands. [HSE](#)

**Courts, off-shore** ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd has been ordered to pay fines & costs totalling £3.1 million after gas leaks on a platform off the Lincolnshire coast put workers' lives in danger. [HSE](#)

**Courts, rail** Babcock Rail has been hit with fines & costs totalling £430,000 after a worker suffered serious injuries after being crushed between a digger and a station platform in Flintshire. [BBC](#)

**Courts, work-at-height** A scaffolding company has been hit with £123,000 in fines & costs after a worker suffered life changing injuries after he fell through the roof of a barn. [HSE](#)

**Courts, Star Wars** The HSE is to prosecute the company that produced the film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, after Harrison Ford was seriously injured during the film's making. [HSE](#); [IOSH](#)

**Construction** The CITB has invalidated over 4,000 Construction Skills Certification Scheme labourer cards after 5 test centres were found to have taken bribes. [IOSH](#)

**Zika** For the latest advice on the Zika virus, go to [INSI](#), [NaTHNaC](#), [WHO](#), & [Public Health England](#)