

The Cinderella public service



Since 2002 the Health and Safety Executive's budget has been cut every year by below-inflation spending review settlements. Such cuts are scheduled to continue until at least 2011.

- Spending on health and safety as a percentage of the UK's gross domestic product (GDP) has fallen by a third since 1997.
- HSE has resources to investigate only 11% of reported major injuries.
- HSE now prosecutes only half the number of cases it did in the early 1990s. This is not the result of improved standards, but of more employers getting away with workplace crimes
- For every 12,000 businesses in the UK there is just a single local authority or HSE health and safety inspector.

Experienced inspectors are leaving HSE. Can you blame them?

If HSE inspectors' pay had kept pace with the retail price index (RPI) since 2002 they would be earning £2,200 a year more than they do now. If it had kept pace with average earnings they would be getting £3,600 more.

Health and safety regulation is attacked as a burden on business, but the real burden is on those who are made sick, injured or killed at work.

“Work is much more likely to be a source of violence in Britain than those ‘real’ crimes recorded by the Home Office,” according to a recent report*. Yet HSE – covering the whole of Great Britain – has about as much funding as the Merseyside Constabulary.

*Centre for Crime and Justice Studies briefing
A Crisis of Enforcement – The Decriminalisation
of Death and Injury at Work, June 2008



Let's get Cinderella to the ball

- **COMPLAIN** to your MP about the Government's whitewashing of Select Committee reports in 2004 and 2008 that both recommended better rights for union safety representatives, increases in the level of health and safety inspection and higher fines for breaches of regulations.
- **CAMPAIGN** within your union to stop deregulation and the financial strangulation of HSE.
- **STOP** them trying to wipe away the gains of 175 years of struggle for workers' health and safety rights!

Prospect is an independent and forward-looking trade union with more than 102,000 members in the public and private sectors.



Our members are engineers, scientists, managers and specialists and include HSE inspectors and other health and safety professionals.

enquiries@prospect.org.uk

**New Prospect House
8 Leake Street
London SE1 7NN
020 7902 6600**