

# Cross-Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

Tuesday 7 February 18:00-20:00

(Scottish Parliament)

## Minute

## Present

## MSPs

Clare Adamson (SNP)

Claire Baker (Lab) (online)

Sharon Dowey (Scottish Conservative)

## Invited guests

Jim Brown                      Binn Group

Keith Jackson                Binn Group

Leslie Mason                 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

## Non-MSP Group Members

Michael Avril                 Water Safety Scotland

Kevin Chase                  SCSN

Jim Dorman                  St Andrew's First Aid

Laura Erskine                RNLI

Yvonne Gilfillan	IOSH Scotland
Bill Harley	Fife Safer Communities
Jill Hepburn	RNLI
Lyn Hill	Fife Safer Communities
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Elizabeth Lumsden	Secretary (RoSPA)
Bruce Nisbet	Minutes (RoSPA)
David Roy	Kingdom Housing Association
Alistair Taylor	Clare Adamson's office
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate

## Online

Robert Atkinson	Public Health Scotland
Stephen Bridgman	Public Health Scotland
John Johnston	TechnipFMC
Mark Lilley	Safety advocate
Michelle McKenna	Consumer and Public Interest Network
Neil McNicol	John McNicol & Co. (Electrical Engineers) Ltd
Jan Miller	UWS
John Nelson	AECOM
Katrina Phillips	CAPT
Iain Sutherland	HSE
Carol Wood	NASUWT

## Apologies

Gill Burton	SCDT
Miles Briggs	MSP
Jane Campbell Morrison	SAAF
Mark Carroll	HSE
Andy Cathro	Safety Advocate
Fred Cullum	IOSH Scotland
Hannah Dale	Division of Health Psychology - Scotland
Gena Falconer	Highland Council
Lorraine Gillies	SCSN
Sheena Harper	Safety advocate
Rachel Jones	Totseat
Karter Kane	ESF
Lesley Nish	NHS Great Glasgow and Clyde
Louise Richardson	Absafe
Konstantina Scott-Barrett	RCPCH
Duncan Spiers	Christopher's Life Saving Campaign
Norman Stevenson	Safety Groups UK
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory
Liz Young	Safety advocate
Lynn Young	Scottish Government
Representative	Early Years Scotland

## 1 Welcome

The convener of the CPG, Clare Adamson MSP, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sharon Dowe MSP was present, and Claire Baker MSP was online. The theme for the meeting was Focus on Safety in the Waste Industry. Ms Adamson congratulated

Carlene McAvoy on having her research paper on the Drowning Incident Review published by the BMJ.

## **2 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on 8 November were proposed as accurate by Brian Topping and seconded by Bill Harley.

## **3 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

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## **4 Correspondence**

Ms Adamson highlighted a letter which had been received regarding the forthcoming Festival of Politics. Ms Adamson suggested that the Water Safety Strategy was one aspect of work which being considered for going forward for inclusion. If anyone has an article or item they would like to contribute then please forward these to Liz Lumsden by 17 February.

Ms Adamson also referred to a recent Parliamentary Debate discussing the issue of vaping and the way in which ecigarettes are being marketed at young people and how they may impact on their health. During the Debate it was mentioned that such products were at risk of being counterfeited and had been highlighted by the Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland and discussed at this CPG in November 2022.

## **5 Headlines**

Liz Lumsden spoke to Headlines newsletter. Sections of note were, Fife Cares spreads the word about safer toys at Christmas, Drowning and Incident Review (DIR), Child Safety Week 2023, Letter from SGN, RoSPA home safety webinar, Kingdom Named Housing Provider Of The Year At National Awards and Product Safety Recalls. Please see Appendix A for the full copy.

## 6 Presentations

(Presentations from all meetings are available on the RoSPA website at <https://www.rospa.com/about/around-the-uk/scotland/cross-party-group> )

### Jim Brown

Jim has worked in the recycling and resource management industry for over 30 years and has been with Binn Group for almost 9 years as Commercial Director. Jim is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of SWITCH (Scottish Waste Industry, Technical Competence in Health & Safety) Forum and also Chairs the SWITCH Health & Safety Working Group.

Jim's presentation was about 'The rise and dangers of aggression in the waste industry'. Jim highlighted that post COVID pandemic there was a noticeable rise in the level of abuse and frustration directed at waste industry employees. A video highlighting dangerous driving by members of the public trying to get past trade refuse vehicles. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa4e4T4yleQ&list=PLTqyjSfulsDTwdJi1dw3hZsgdaE9LnvwE&index=8>

A further awareness raising video is due to be produced in April and Jim asked that the members of this CPG help to share it. Ms Adamson undertook to raise the matter with Daniel Johnson MSP who had recently been instrumental in getting the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act being made law in August 2021 to see if this could include waste industry workers.

### Keith Jackson

Keith is a recently retired Police Officer who was a Lead trainer for Police Scotland for Public Order Specialisms and a Tactical Advisor for events such as COP26 , the Ryder Cup and G8 summits. Keith joined Binn Group in 2022 in a Health and Safety capacity.

Keith's presentation was about 'Health and Safety in an operational SME within the Waste Industry'. This focused on the risks that workers who sorted the waste into recycling and waste faced during that process, especially the risk from inappropriately recycled products such as Lithium-ion batteries. Keith also spoke about the dangers that workers face when vehicles were moving within recycling and waste sorting facilities.

### Les Mason

Les is a Station Commander in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, with a remit of looking at new and emerging risks, threats and technology.

Les' presentation was about Zombie Batteries. Les detailed the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries when they began a chemical process which changes the balance within the battery which can lead to explosion or cause enough heat to be an ignition source. Les also spoke about the costs posed by lithium-ion-ion batteries when they exploded or ignited for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and how this also linked into the waste industry. Les provided the following link which he referred to: [Cutting Lithium-ion Battery Fires in the Waste Industry - Eunomia](#)

## 7 Question and answer session

Ms Adamson asked how lithium-ion batteries could be made safe when they are damaged or being recycled. Les Mason answered that from a fire safety perspective the best course of action is for the lithium-ion battery to be left in isolation to complete the chemical reaction taking place and that includes people leaving the immediate scene of the incident for their own safety. Keith Jackson said that from a waste management perspective lithium-ion batteries were placed into appropriate containers for recycling. Keith also mentioned that in one incident a bin lorry dumped its load onto the public highway after the load went on fire where the suspected cause was a lithium-ion battery having a chemical reaction.

Brian Topping asked if there is statistics for the number of prosecutions that have taken place for violence and aggression against waste industry workers. Jim Brown replied that there had been prosecutions but he suspects that the true number of incidents is being under reported by waste industry workers.

Kathy Jenkins asked if the mining of the components required to produce lithium-ion batteries was going to be matched by the ability to recycle them. Keith Jackson said that there is a plant in Wales that currently recycles lithium-ion batteries and that more were planned for the UK.

Yvonne Gilfillan asked if the design of a waste recycling premises contributed to the level of violence and aggression that waste industry workers were facing. Jim Brown pointed out that every local authority in Scotland has a different approach to waste recycling it might have but it could also be the public attending the facility not fully understanding the requests to put specific waste in specific containers from staff which might be an issue.

Ms Adamson asked if the potential perception that recycling high end products can be done as easily as discarding them is something that the waste recycling industry could assist in this key educational message. Jim Brown pointed out the product producers, retailers and manufacturers all have a major role in this. Ms Adamson said that consideration should be given to the role that social media has when delivering educational messages about a subject.

Bill Harley asked what action is to be taken should a lithium-ion battery enter a state where it posed a risk of fire following should a package containing a lithium-ion battery arrive split and / or damaged. Les Mason said that it was best to leave it somewhere that it will minimise the risk of harm to a person should it be seen to be smoking off. Les also pointed out that Vancouver had recorded their first death in a house fire where the lithium-ion battery was the ignition source. Caution should also be exercised when purchasing a lithium-ion battery to ensure that it is only purchased via reputable retailers because lithium-ion batteries are capable of self-sustaining a fire and don't need oxygen.

Ms Adamson asked if there are guidelines on who picks up the costs in relation to the illegal dumping that takes place and how the waste industry manages those risks. Jim Brown said that if the items were on public land then it was the local authority's responsibility to manage this and if it were private land then the land owner was responsible. However in certain circumstances private contractors were engaged to manage illegal dumping on behalf of local authorities due to the products being illegally dumped, e.g. asbestos. Jim also spoke of the role of unlicensed contractors who also may be dumping items illegally. Ms Adamson said that it is difficult to estimate the role that unlicensed contractors have in illegal dumping and it may even be that they are also involved in organised crime. Jim Brown and Keith Jackson agreed that data on this is challenging and Les Mason said that the data recording systems used by the Fire Service is under review. Ms Adamson then asked if the wider Health & Safety community could consider looking at the recycling issue and that it could also be a role for RoSPA and CAPT to consider as part of safety messaging.

David Roy asked about the training that waste industry workers receive for violence reduction / de-escalation. Jim Brown and Keith Jackson explained the training delivered in which staff are trained to de-escalate the situation, usually by removing themselves from the situation and returning to vehicles.

## **8 AOCB**

Nothing declared.

## **9 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 21 March in person at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of this CPG.

Brian Topping gave a vote of thanks to the Convenor.

Appendix A: Headlines Newsletter, Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness. 8 February 2023.

## **Fife Cares spreads the word about safer toys at Christmas**



Safer Communities, Fife Council through the Fife Cares service worked hard before Christmas to spread the word in Fife about the dangers to children of button batteries and the need to ensure toys are safe.

This involved attending three shopping centres where they spoke to people and handed out resources provided by the Child Accident Prevention Trust as well as RoSPA. They spoke to anyone who would listen and over three sessions this was up to about 200 people. A good festive time was had by all involved.

The Home Safety Advisors continue to provide advice and literature regarding the dangers of button batteries at all child safety visits they attend.

A full page article was also published in the 'Down Your Street' magazine which goes out to all Fife Council tenants and is electronic and in hard copy.



## Do you have these items in your house?...

...they could harm or even kill your child!  
What do they all have in common?

They all contain...  
...button batteries.

Fife Council, Safer Communities through Fife Care, are working in partnership with RoSPA and the Child Accident Prevention Trust, to raise awareness of the dangers of button batteries.  
Last Christmas a 19-month-old child from Motherwell swallowed a button battery, apparently from a toy and tragically died as a result. Please don't let this be your family!

If your child swallows a button battery it can badly harm or even kill them and this can happen quickly. Children aged six months to four and a half years are most at risk.



**Top Tips**  
1. Search around your home for button batteries - if you can find them so can your child  
2. Keep button battery compartments secure  
3. Keep spare or loose batteries secure away from children - even discharged batteries can cause harm.  
4. Check anything you buy for Christmas before giving it to a child, to ensure batteries are secure in their compartments and compartments are safe and cannot be opened by young children  
5. Beware of bargains online or in shops. The batteries may be loose in the packaging, or

If you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery unfortunately it is not always obvious when a battery is stuck in a child's food pipe. There are no specific symptoms associated with this. If you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery act fast!

1. Take your child straight to A&E
2. Tell the doctor you think your child has swallowed a button battery
3. Take any packaging to hospital with you
4. Don't let your child eat or drink
5. Do not make your child sick

For more information on button batteries go to [www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries](http://www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries)



Your opportunity to participate

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From, Bill Harley, Fife Safer Communities

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## Drowning and Incident Review (DIR)

DIR is a process that aims to gather data and understand the contributory factors of a water-related incident in order to help gain a better understanding of how to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

The process was created by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and RoSPA, and is led by Water Safety Scotland (WSS). It is a voluntary process and covers all ages of accidental or 'unknown' fatalities in Scotland.

Over the last year, DIR has been in its pilot phase and research on the process has just been published in the BMJ Injury Prevention. You can read the research paper, with a subscription here: <https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2022/12/22/ip-2022-044785>

A short blog on DIR is available online: <https://www.rospa.com/lets-talk-about/2023/january/drowning-and-incident-review>

WSS, SFRS and RoSPA are now considering the recommendations from the research as well as creating a training package, which will be kindly hosted by SFRS, for anyone involved in water safety and likely to be involved DIR. The process aims to launch in early spring.

For more information contact [DIR@watersafetyscotland.org.uk](mailto:DIR@watersafetyscotland.org.uk)

From Carlene McAvoy, WSS

## Child Safety Week 2023



Child Safety Week is the Child Accident Prevention Trust's annual community education campaign, acting as a catalyst for thousands of safety conversations and activities Scotland-wide.

Child Safety Week helps families build confidence and skills in managing the real risks to children's safety. It supports the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling inequalities, mainstreaming resilience and enabling all children to realise their full potential.

This year, **Child Safety Week runs from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.** Don't miss out. For free safety advice and resources direct to your inbox, [sign up here.](#)

*From Laura Harris, CAPT*

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### **RoSPA home safety webinar**

RoSPA's Home Safety webinar will be taking place on **Tuesday, February 28, 2023.** If your role is aimed at helping consumers, families and work colleagues live their lives free from serious accidental injury in the home then this is a fantastic opportunity for those interested in home and product safety to come together and hear guidance from a range of experts in the field.

Don't miss out, book your place today! [RoSPA Virtual Home Safety Conference 2023 - RoSPA](#)

From Liz Lumsden, RoSPA

## Letter from SGN

SGN has written to its customers in Campbeltown, Oban, Thurso and Wick with important safety information about their gas appliances as follows: -

### **We're writing to you with important safety information about your gas appliances.**

We at SGN are responsible for maintaining the network of pipes that supply gas to homes and businesses throughout Scotland. We are writing to remind you that gas appliances in your property, including boilers, gas fires and cookers, require regular servicing - normally at least once a year - to ensure they remain in good working order and do not present a risk to your safety.

Faulty or malfunctioning gas appliances can produce a colourless and odourless gas called **carbon monoxide (CO)**. CO is a highly poisonous gas that you can't see, smell, hear or taste, and consequently is sometimes referred to as the 'silent killer'. The symptoms of CO poisoning include nausea, dizziness, headaches and tiredness. Prolonged exposure to CO can be fatal.

Since 1st February 2022, all [Scottish homes are required](#) to have a carbon monoxide alarm in all rooms where there is a fixed combustion appliance or a flue (excluding an appliance used solely for cooking). Carbon monoxide alarms must meet the relevant British Standards (EN 50291-1). However, for safety reasons, owning a CO alarm **does not** remove the need for regular appliance servicing. Remember to check the batteries on CO alarms regularly and replace the whole device once the expiry date printed on the alarm has been reached. If you suspect there may be CO present in your property, then you should ventilate the area by opening windows and doors, move outside into the fresh air and call the Gas Emergency Service on **0800 111 999** or via textphone (minicom) on **0800 371 787**.

To minimise the risk of CO or any other safety issue we strongly recommend you contact a **Gas Safe Registered Engineer** to service and perform safety checks on your appliances if this has not been done in the last 12 months. If you own your property, then visit [www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk) or call **0800 408 5500** for an official list of gas engineers who are qualified to work legally on gas appliances in your area. Alternatively, you can contact SGN on **0845 757 3864** to discuss your appliance servicing needs.

If you live in private rented, council-owned, or social housing, then the property owners are legally required to have the appliances in your property serviced annually and supply CO alarm where they are required. Contact your landlord and ask for a current copy of the gas safety certificate for your property if you are unsure as to whether this work has been carried out.

Please be reassured that if gas appliances are well maintained and serviced regularly then using gas in the home is extremely safe.

Thank you for your support and feel free to share this information.

*From Caroline Lawrie, SGN*

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## Kingdom Named Housing Provider Of The Year At National Awards

Kingdom Housing Association has been named Housing Provider of the Year at the 2022 [CIH Scotland Housing Awards](#), the country's annual awards for excellence in housing.

At a gala awards event held in Glasgow, the CIH Scotland Housing Awards recognised and celebrated the individuals, organisations and projects that have made a difference to tenants, customers and communities across the country over the last year.

Facing stiff competition from across Scotland, there were also awards for Fern Barclay, Kingdom's Health & Safety Advisor who won the Apprentice of the Year Award and Tenant Participation Officer Eilidh MacDonald lifted the Young Achiever in Housing Award.

Laurie Naumann, one of Kingdom's founding members and current [joint Vice-Chair](#), was recognised in the Outstanding Contribution to Housing Award for his work within the sector for over four decades.

**Kingdom Group Chief Executive Bill Banks** said, "Kingdom was shortlisted for 16 submissions at the CIH Scotland Housing Awards this year which is a record for the Association. Credit goes to everyone across the Kingdom Group for their dedication and commitment to delivering exceptional work for our customers, whether those customers are internal or external."

Bill added, "Winning four awards, including the prestigious Housing Provider of the Year, is a fantastic achievement as the Awards attract extremely high-quality submissions from across the sector. At Kingdom our mission is to provide *more than a home* and having such a broad range of entries shortlisted shows how much is being done by the team to deliver on that mission."

Kingdom Housing Association was well represented throughout the awards ceremony gaining recognition in numerous categories including Working In Partnership, Excellence in Development of Affordable Housing, Excellence in Delivering Homelessness Services, Excellence in Regeneration and Sustainability, Net-Zero in Housing, Excellence in Leadership, Housing Team of the Year, and Excellence in Communications.

From Dave Roy, Kingdom Housing

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## Product Recall Information

The following products have recently been recalled. Please click on the links for further information

<https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-recall-axiuloo-20w-usb-c-fast-charger-plug-for-various-iphone-models-sold-via-amazon-2208-0137>

- [BISSELL® Cordless Wet Dry Vacuum Floor Cleaners](#)



- [Costa Coffee Valentine's Mug](#)
- [Clarks Breeze and Brinkley Women's Shoes](#)
- [Jgstkc City Waterproof Extension Leads sold via Amazon and eBay](#)
- [Glen Dimplex Home Appliance Ltd manufactured Belling, Stoves and New World Gas Range Cookers with Gas Grill \(110, 100 and 90 models\)](#)

**Electrical Safety First, the UK's leading charity on electrical safety, is holding its first Scottish Electrical Safety Conference.**

**Date:** Wednesday, 17 May 2023

**Location:** Edinburgh International Conference Centre ([see map](#))

**Time:** 12:00 - 16:30

**Cost:** Admission is free ([book now](#))

We would be delighted if you could support the conference by becoming a marketing partner for the event and help to promote it to your colleagues and networks.

As a conference marketing partner, we'll offer you the following:

- Your organisation's logo on our conference web page with a link to your website.
- A mention of our partnership for this conference on our social media channels.
- Your organisation's logo on branding at the event.

If this interests you and you would like to receive a media pack with social media graphics, photos, and text that you can put in your newsletters, contact Karter on [Karter.Kane@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](mailto:Karter.Kane@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk)

## More details about the conference

Join experts and leaders from across the industry to explore key critical issues and solutions and gain insight into what goes into creating safer electrical products - from the ideation stage to production and sale.

This event is perfect for designers, retailers, manufacturers, product testing houses, trading standards, government bodies, safety experts and more. Wherever you are in the electrical product chain, take advantage of this opportunity!

If you'd like to learn more about the conference, visit the conference page on the [Electrical Safety First website](#).

From Karter Kane, ESF

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## Scam Awareness Campaign

Advice Direct Scotland is encouraging consumers to steer clear of the catfish to avoid being scammed on and around Valentine's Day 2023.

Throughout the week commencing Monday the 13th of February, we will share our top tips on avoiding being caught out by pretend love interests on dating apps; bogus ads selling goods and services online; and fake get-rich quick schemes, including cryptocurrency scams.

What is a catfish? What is cryptocurrency? What tactics do online scammers use? The campaign will focus on the practical things that consumers can do to avoid being caught out and show what support is available in situations where they are.

The campaign has its [own page on consumeradvice.scot](#), where partners can download campaign materials and access articles. There is a "Campaign Brief" included, which includes suggested posts and campaign assets. If you can share this through your networks, it would be much appreciated.



From Colin Mathieson, Advice Direct Scotland