

IOSH welcomes Brexit White Paper worker rights pledge

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) has welcomed a Government pledge to protect and enhance workers' rights as part of the UK's negotiations to exit the European Union.



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The recently published 'Brexit' [White Paper](#) [1] has listed protecting workers' rights as one of 12 principles which will guide the UK Government during its negotiations to leave the EU.

In making its pledge, the Government states upholding workers' rights will provide "certainty and continuity to employees and employers alike, creating stability in which the UK can grow and thrive".

Richard Jones, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at IOSH, said: "IOSH welcomes the Government's 'Brexit' White Paper commitment that the UK will remain a world-leader on workers' rights and will ensure adequate legal protections in the changing labour market - all essential for ensuring safe and healthy working conditions across the sectors.

"IOSH is encouraged that the Government commits to seeking out opportunities to also enhance worker protections and is currently consulting on Corporate Governance reforms, urging business to be open and transparent. We believe that positive health and safety leadership and good corporate performance reporting can drive improvements, helping to save lives and secure business success.

"We are also pleased that the Government has confirmed that, as early as it can, it wishes to relieve uncertainty for affected workers and employers by securing the status of EU nationals already in the UK, and UK nationals in Europe."

IOSH will be responding shortly on the [Corporate Governance Reform Green Paper](#) [2], recently published by the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

The Green Paper seeks views in a number of areas where there are options for updating the corporate governance framework. In relation to occupational health and safety these include:

Whether there are measures that could increase the connection between boards of directors and other groups with an interest in corporate performance such as employees and suppliers

Whether the requirements for corporate governance reporting that apply to listed companies should be extended to large privately-held companies and/or businesses within different types of ownership.

IOSH would like to include the views of its members as part of its response to the Green Paper consultation. Those interested in having their comments considered for inclusion should email consultation@iosh.co.uk [3] by Friday 10 February.

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[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589191/The_United_Kingdoms_exit_from_and_partnership_with_the_EU_Web.pdf

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/584013/corporate-governance-reform-green-paper.pdf

[3] <mailto:consultation@iosh.co.uk>

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