

Safety *Matters*

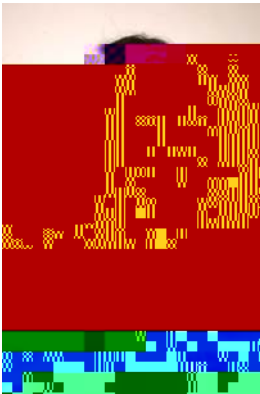
Contact: Moira Simpson, Head of Health & Safety Services

The Health and Safety team

We are pleased to say that two new members have now joined the team. They are Jon Crabb and Jennifer Folliard. Both of them have an Environmental Health inspection background – but do not fear, they are here to help you!



They have been allocated specific areas of the University to



Avian flu

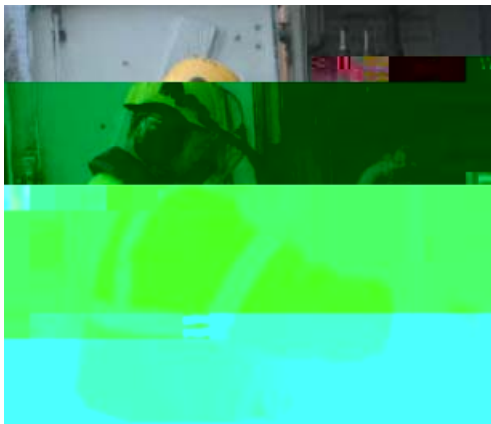
Members of the University cannot fail to have become aware of the media speculation and “doom and gloom” scenarios about Avian Flu, and its possible impact on the UK. There has also been a lot of confusion between Avian (bird) flu and Pandemic flu, as many flu experts are expecting a new pandemic [world-wide epidemic] of a novel strain of human influenza, derived from the current high-pathogenicity avian strain H5N1. However, it must be emphasized that the transition of the avian virus to a human virus remains a theoretical possibility. Although the current avian virus has infected humans, all the evidence points to the fact that exposure to high levels of virus (for example by handling dead birds that have been killed by the virus) is required.

A Contingency Plan for the University is being developed to identify actions required to minimise the effects of a case or outbreak of avian flu in birds or humans on the campus. This Plan will also identify actions necessary if a human pandemic occurs, whether the disease is present in a part of the world to be visited by a membea.a3.71147 492.14334 Tm298 4857 8364517.6466a49labley a .98 128.6

Remember that these values apply as an average across an eight hour working day.

These revised Actions Levels mark a significant reduction in the noise levels to which workers can be exposed. It is therefore recommended that Schools and Directorates:

- Check noise levels in e.g. workshops, or during activities that can generate noise, such as when using impact tools, or driving tractors and grass cutting machines.
- Decide if you need to do more to limit exposure. Use HSE's noise exposure calculator to calculate a noise dose <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/calculator.htm>.
- Check that signage is in place to identify areas where hearing protection is mandatory.



If the noise levels are close to the new limits, the first priority is to try to reduce the noise at source, then to control exposure by engineering solutions, limiting the duration of exposure, etc.

Remember that you also have to provide information and training to employees who are exposed to noise, including information on the potential risk to hearing.

Feature on Slips and trips

Slips and trips account for the highest number of major injuries and occur in all types of work. They have propelled themselves into the Health and Safety Commission's Hall of Shame and are included as one of the 5 Priority Programme topics in the Government's Revitalizing Health and Safety Campaign.

The main causes are:

- slipping on a surface that is wet or contaminated
- tripping over an obstruction
- slipping or tripping on surfaces such as steps, pavements, ramps and roads
- tripping over an uneven floor surface

In addition slips and trips often lead to other types of accidents, such as some machinery accidents, scalding and probably over one third of falls from height.

Last year in the University there were 21 accidents involving people slipping or tripping. These resulted in two members of staff suffering a major injury (broken bone or torn ligament) and a further 3 members of staff having more than 3 days off work. In addition 3 members of