



Association of Colleges
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FAO Principal Chief Executive and Chair of Board of Management

FESH (Further Education Safety and Health Forum)

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the role and work of FESH (the Further Education Safety and Health Forum).

FESH was established in 2006 as a joint stakeholder forum of college representative bodies, trades unions and agencies, including the HSE. We are the principal stakeholder body concerning occupational health and safety across the further education sector in the UK.

Currently, the organisations represented on FESH are:

Association of Managers in Education (the leadership section of ATL)
Association of Colleges
Colegau Cymru
Educational Institute of Scotland
Health & Safety Development Network, Colleges Scotland
UNISON
Health and Safety Executive

Occupational health and safety practitioners from Colleges in Southern and Northern England are also invited to attend the meetings.

As the leading forum for the Further Education sector, we have developed an effective partnership between further education establishments, employers and employee representatives to provide strategic oversight and harmonisation of standards and best practice of occupational health and safety in colleges across the UK, including that of the safe learner.

Meetings are held at different locations across the UK and the meeting notes are published on the Association of Colleges website, here:

<https://www.aoc.co.uk/funding-and-corporate-services/health-and-safety/further-education-safety-health-group-fesh>

A strategic health and safety management assessment tool was recently developed by the forum. This enables colleges to take a look at occupational health and safety performance as well as providing the tools to develop a strategic improvement plan. The assessment tool is straightforward, high level and can be used to engage senior managers on occupational health and safety strategy. The Assessment tool is available via the web page, above.

The forum is currently developing a best practice document for implementing an occupational health surveillance strategy in Further Education. This will set out key principles and provide links to relevant existing sources of guidance. The aim is to use practical examples and case studies to illustrate good practice approaches.

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the forum for information, guidance or assistance on occupational health and safety matters.

Many thanks for your attention
Yours sincerely

Ian Rowe (Chair)

Stephen Green (Secretary)

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