



Mr Michael Noonan, T.D.
Minister for Finance
Department of Finance,
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2
D02 R583

25 August 2016

Re: National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) Pre-Budget Submission 2016

Dear Minister

As the voice for the occupational health and safety community in Ireland, the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO), a not for profit organisation, is pleased to make this Pre-Budget 2016 submission for your consideration.

The economy, organisations, workers and their families all reap the benefit from the provision of a safe and healthy work environment. Addressing health and safety should not be seen as a regulatory burden - it offers significant opportunities.

The benefits of a safer and healthier work environment can be summarised as follows:

- reduced costs;
- reduced risks;
- lower employee absence and turnover rates;
- fewer accidents;
- lessened threat of legal action;
- improved standing among suppliers and partners;
- better reputation for corporate responsibility among investors, customers and communities;
- increased productivity, because employees are healthier, happier and better motivated.

The costs of poor health and safety at work are:

- Significant amount of days are lost due to work-related illness and injury.
- People die from occupational diseases.
- 7,775 workers injured at work in 2015 - these are only reported figures that involve 4+ days off work.
- A worker is fatally injured on average almost every week.
- Organisations can incur further costs – such as uninsured losses and loss of reputation.

The benefits to the economy are shown by the INDECON report which conservatively estimates the cost of accidents and ill health to the economy at €3.3 billion [2006 figures].

Source: Report on Economic Impact of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Legislation - Final Report

Table showing Exchequer funding to HSA in €000's

2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Revised Estimates	Unaudited									
17,544	18,217	18,422	18,780	19,146	19,968	19,984	22,561	24,235	22,962	20,998

Source: HSA Annual Reports 2003 - 2015, Revised Estimates, Department of Finance.

We are asking the Department of Finance to review the current levels of exchequer funding to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), which in 2016 was reduced by a further 4% from 2015 estimates.

Source: Revised Estimates - Dept of Finance.

We specifically ask that you re-instate funding to 2008 levels over a three year period to ensure an adequate level of service and inspections by the Health and Safety Authority to ensure maximum compliance with legislation and good practice. With employment figures having surpassed 2 million, we are now at 2009 employment levels with the HSA receiving considerably less exchequer funding.

Table showing fatalities workplace injuries over the years.

2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
at 23 Aug										
25	56	55	47	48	54	48	43	57	67	51

Source: HSA Website

The accident rate per 100,000 workers dropped to below 2 in 2009 but is now above 2.5 (2015).

Source: HSA website

We believe that this is a result of reduced inspections over the period 2009 -2015 from previous years.

In conclusion

NISO, in its voluntary role, is committed to supporting the work of the HSA in its remit.

We have seen its work hindered by the lack of exchequer funding. We strongly advocate an increase in funding to 2008 levels phased in over three years commencing with the estimates for 2017.

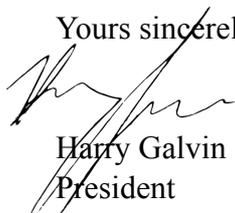
About NISO

The National Irish Safety Organisation Company Limited by Guarantee is a not for profit membership organisation with charitable status, promoting occupational health and safety. NISO has over 1,000 members which includes corporations, small enterprises, professional organisations from all business backgrounds, both private and public sector.

NISO provides a wide range of services such as the provision of information to members, courses, seminars and events [conference, quizzes and an awards scheme] to match their occupational health & safety requirements.

With its headquarters in Dublin, NISO has a regional network throughout Ireland. The Executive Committee includes representatives from the Health & Safety Authority, Ibec, Insurance Ireland and Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Yours sincerely



Harry Galvin
President