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PASMA sponsors inquiry into workplace falls from height

PASMA is sponsoring the new All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Working at Height, which recently launched its first official inquiry into the number of serious injuries and fatalities resulting from falls from height and falling objects in the UK workplace.

Chaired by the member of parliament for Glasgow Central, Alison Thewliss, the inquiry is now open for evidence and submissions from interested parties until 2nd March. The group will consider this evidence and produce a report and recommendations on how the frequency of serious injuries and fatalities might be reduced.

In 2016/2017, 18 percent of those who died at work were killed due to a fall from height. PASMA and the 11 member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) believe there are a range of issues that urgently need to be addressed to help reduce these alarming figures. These include: better collection of statistics relating to workplace falls, more in depth investigations, raising awareness of the dangers of working at height, and the need to choose the most appropriate piece of access equipment for the task at hand.

Thewliss said: "That 18 percent of people killed at work did so as a result of a fall from height is a shocking statistic. The All Party Parliamentary Group for Working

at Height has brought together concerned MPs from several parties to investigate the reasons for falls from height and ensure current regulations are sufficient for protecting workers at height in the UK."

Peter Bennett, managing director of PASMA added: "Although the number of overall workplace deaths has decreased since 2015, nearly one in five of those who lost their lives last year died because of a fall from height. The Access Industry Forum and PASMA are glad to support the work of this new parliamentary group, which aims to shine a light on the reasons for falls from height in the workplace. We look forward to seeing its recommendations to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on how the number of people and families affected by falls from height can be further reduced. I would urge all organisations engaged in working at height – no matter what industry or trade - to submit evidence to this inquiry, and help ensure that all of those who work at height return home safely every day."



The inquiry asks participants the following questions:

- 1) In your opinion, what are the primary reasons for falls, or falling objects, which cause serious injuries or fatalities when working at height?
- 2) Do you have any comments about the existing regulations for work at height, as set out in the Work at Height Regulations, 2005?
- 3) Are there specific measures you believe are necessary to prevent falls, or falling objects, from height which are not currently required by law?
- 4) What more can industry do to avoid falls from height, and share good practice?
- 5) What role should end users/ customers have in ensuring safe work at height?
- 6) Would you support enhanced reporting of falls from height as a way of better understanding the causes and helping to reduce falls from height?
- 7) Do you believe the current definition of competence for working at height is appropriate?
- 8) Can you propose any innovative suggestions, particularly using



Peter Bennett, PASMA and Alison Thewliss, MP & Chair

digital technology, which could have a positive effect on reducing falls / falling objects from height?

- 9) Please add any additional comments or specific cases studies you have which may be relevant

Submissions can be made by the 2nd March to appg@workingatheight.info or Working At Height APPG, 32-34 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2DB



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