

# cranes & access

July/August 2023 Vol.25 issue 4

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TOWER  
CRANES

SCISSOR LIFTS

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EQUIPMENT

SOURCE GUIDE



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## TOWER CRANES 17

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The biggest surprise at APEX last month, was the number of unknown scissor lift manufacturers exhibiting at the show, most of them testing the European market for potential. We take a look at some of the newcomers as part of our round-up of the scissor lift market.

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## ON THE COVER

Liebherr dealer Kranimex installed a 40 LC tower crane in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava using a three tonne capacity MI-8T helicopter from heavy haulage specialist Tech-Mont. Full story on page 20



**IN THE NEXT ISSUE** Scheduled for publication in September, the next issue of Cranes & Access will include the results of the annual Top 30 rental companies survey, Loader cranes, Spider lifts and the latest development in Remote controls and sensors. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.



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# COMMENT

## BLAH BLAH BLAH...

It is rare that a news story emerges that is wrong on so many levels. Unfortunately, one appeared in the UK this month involving two members of a family, innocently involved in a tower crane incident three years ago which destroyed their house and killed their 85 year old aunt. 90 other people were also affected.

As appalling as it was, it would appear that nothing has been resolved since then. The family have no compensation or even a home, an inquest has yet to take place, the Police have not completed their investigation and no report has been published by the Health & Safety Executive.

Leaving aside the reasons why the crane came down - and from all accounts it was fairly obvious - the whole episode has been a complete mess from the start...even removing the crane took six months! However, the evasiveness of those involved is even more painful than listening to someone trying to convince you that blatantly fake news is true.

But perhaps the most surprising comment came from local Member of Parliament Apsana Begum who said: "I support the construction safety campaign... raising concerns about the under-regulation of health & safety in the construction industry". This is alarming given that most in the industry would say the sector is over regulated.

But perhaps her comment is logical for those outside looking in...staggered by the inactivity. However, her comment requesting "that regulators such as the Health & Safety Executive be given the funding and freedom for rigorous enforcement, and investigatory bodies such as the police have the resources to conclude their investigations in a swift manner" may have hit the nail on the head.

Is the lack of progress due to a scarcity of resources in the HSE, Police and the legal system? Whatever the delay, the companies responsible appear to be sheltering behind the system?

The family's solicitor said: "Previous prosecutions by the CPS and HSE have taken a very long time. It's so callous that bereaved families not only suffer the unnecessary and negligent death of a loved one, but then have years of legal nightmares."

We have commented many times on the slow pace that such incidents take the UK authorities to conclude, or even report on. It took the HSE nine years to finalise its investigation and publish a report into the fatal Kimberly boom lift incident on the M25 motorway in 2013.

Why does it take so long? In the USA, OSHA tends to take six months to report and usually conclude its investigations. In Australia the authorities are quick and often issue detailed interim reports, which are released publicly.

The system in the UK is not fit for purpose and either needs adequate funding or a good shake up, so that the innocent parties involved are compensated quickly and correctly, while the accused know where they stand, and the industry can immediately learn and benefit from the mistakes.

#### Mark Darwin

*Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: [editor@vertikal.net](mailto:editor@vertikal.net)*