



Because  
Experience  
Counts



# Impact Report

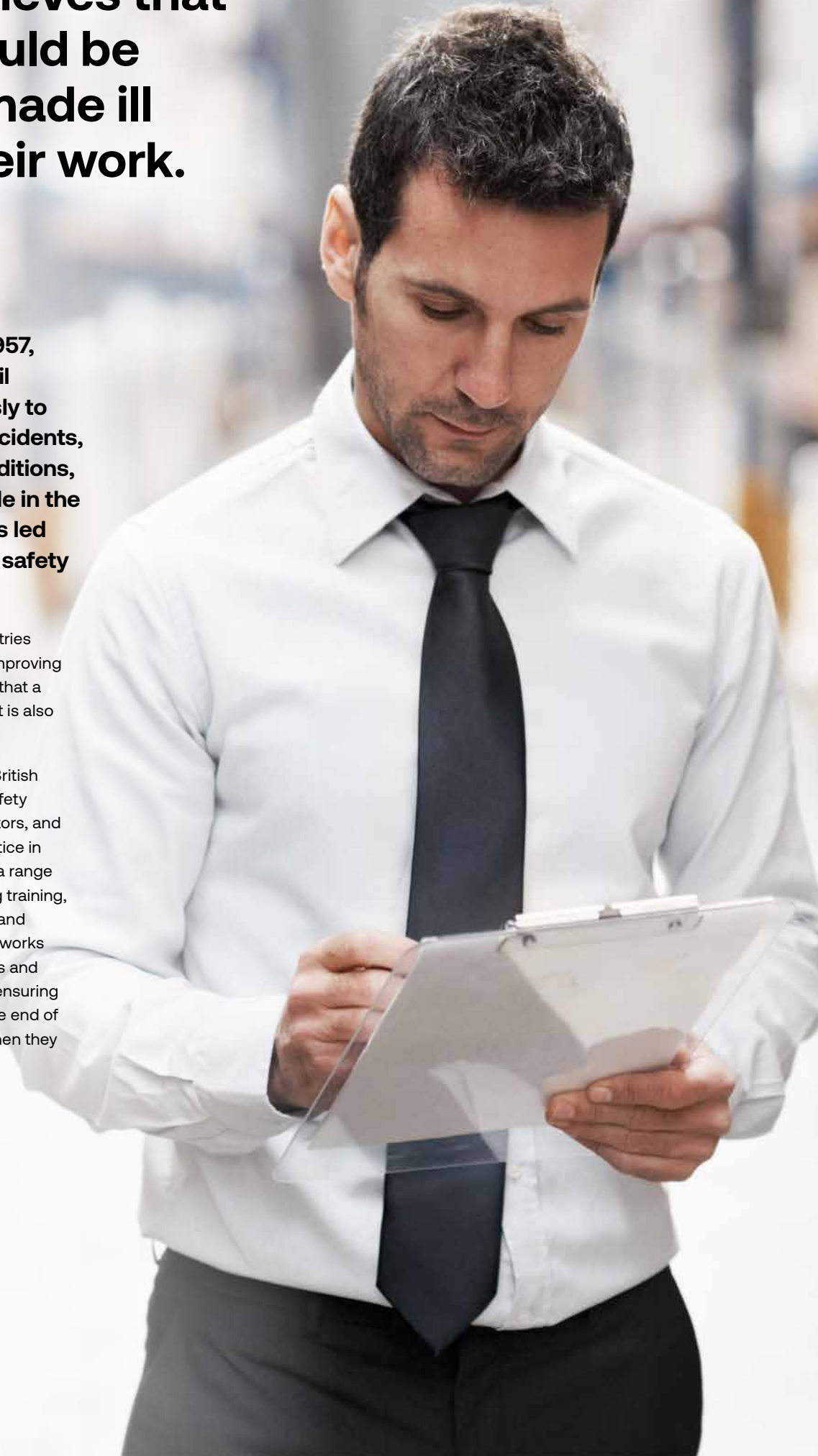
April 2020

# The British Safety Council believes that no one should be injured or made ill through their work.

**Since its foundation in 1957, the British Safety Council has campaigned tirelessly to protect workers from accidents, hazards and unsafe conditions, and played a decisive role in the political process that has led to adoption of landmark safety legislation in the UK.**

Its members in more than 60 countries are committed to protecting and improving the wellbeing of workers believing that a healthy and safe work environment is also good for business.

As part of its charitable work, the British Safety Council leads health and safety networking forums for several sectors, and facilitates and promotes best practice in Britain and overseas. It also offers a range of services and products, including training, qualifications, publications, audits and awards. The British Safety Council works closely with organisations, charities and individuals who share its vision of ensuring that every worker goes home at the end of the day as healthy as they were when they went to work.



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# Foreword by Mike Robinson



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## **Engagement with impact is at the heart of the work of the British Safety Council.**

We want to influence employers so that they prioritise health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace. We want to pass on our expert knowledge to practitioners at every level through our publications and training and through our consultancy and audit services so that organisations have the processes in place to protect their workforce. We want people to thrive and we want the workplace to promote wellbeing, enhancing quality of life and not detracting from it. Talking to our members and communicating our vision is vital to achieving those goals.

But we also want to shape the broader political and societal context in which we all operate, communicating on behalf of our members and the sector to policymakers and influencers. In 2019 we launched a major new campaign, Time to Breathe, focused on the impact of air pollution on workers. We also started narrowing our focus on a new campaign around presenteeism. In India and in the Middle East we built on our reputation as a leading voice in a growing sector.

2019 also saw us recognising the great work so many members do in striving for ever higher standards in health, safety and environmental management and our awards schemes remain the most prestigious in the industry.

All of this has had a powerful impact. Building capability in employers, supporting health and safety managers and demanding high standards makes workplaces safer. Listening to our members gives us a voice to call for action from government, the regulator and enforcement agencies.

And we must not forget that we could not undertake this vital part of our mission without the resources that come from our members and customers. The British Safety Council has always operated as a not-for-profit, investing the income we make from training, audits, membership and awards back into our campaigning and philanthropy – here in the UK and in India. We are a registered charity, with all that entails, and we fundraise through our products and services to deliver on our vision.

Our founder James Tye was a born campaigner, but he was also a campaigner with a purpose – it was his drive that founded the British Safety Council in 1957 and paved the way for the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He believed in having an impact and so do we. Here is what we achieved in 2019, and what we will build on in 2020.

**Mike Robinson FCA**  
Chief Executive  
British Safety Council



# Our Campaigns



# Time to Breathe

**In 2019 the British Safety Council launched a new campaign on air quality: Time to Breathe. The campaign – which will run throughout 2020 and beyond – highlights the impact of air pollution on outdoor workers.**

The British Safety Council is calling on the government to adopt the World Health Organisation's (WHO) air pollution targets and to improve air quality measurement across the UK. We are also calling on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to recognise air pollution as an occupational hazard.

At the heart of our campaign is a new app – Canary – developed in conjunction with King's College, London. Installing the app on a phone enables individual workers in London to track the air pollution they are exposed to. The first data release in January 2020 shows that outdoor workers are exposed to significantly higher levels of air pollution than the average Londoner.

Time to Breathe was launched in Oxford Street in March 2019 – British Safety Council staff and others mounted a demonstration around Oxford Circus, which was covered by the BBC, London Live and the Financial Times. We started working with other organisations campaigning on air quality including Friends of the Earth, Client Earth, British Heart Foundation, British Lung Foundation, GMB, Prospect and Kier.

At the end of 2019, Canary had 1200 individual users working for over 300 employers. This has generated over 40,000 data sets which will support future campaigns. A new steering group formed of leading construction and transport companies has convened and will lead the campaign through 2020.

Time to Breathe takes to the streets to call for outdoor workers' rights to clean air.





# International

## **British Safety Council's international work in 2019 focused on building our presence in India.**

Over the course of 2019 the British Safety Council significantly increased engagement with Indian media. Chief Executive, Mike Robinson, was the keynote speaker at several high-profile conferences including the International Process Safety Conference, in New Delhi where he spoke about best practice audit and the India OSH Conference in Mumbai where he spoke on the future of work and wellbeing.

The British Safety Council has been working with the Indian market for over 30 years, providing health, safety and environmental consultancy services, training and audits from its UK office in London.

In November 2017, the organisation opened an office in Mumbai to offer a greater range of products (audit, training, and membership) tailored to the needs of the Indian market and to support its ability to provide local service delivery. The office is also a base from which the British Safety Council will start campaigning and progressing its charitable work in India. In November 2018, the British Safety Council launched the India Safety Leadership Group, a forum for its members in India to share best practice and expertise in health, safety and wellbeing.

He also spoke at the Asian Paints event in Mumbai and the Qatargas Conference in Qatar.

The Mumbai conference explored ways of achieving excellent health and safety performance.



# Wellbeing

**At the end of 2018 we published our literature review on wellbeing: Not just free fruit: wellbeing at work.**

The report was downloaded over 1,000 times and over 250 people asked to become influencers in the wellbeing debate. We released three new video interviews with Dame Carol Black, former government adviser on health and the workplace on Wellbeing in the Workplace; Wellbeing and SME's and Wellbeing for Line Managers.

These have been viewed by over 4,000 people. We also hosted a roundtable chaired by Peter McGettrick, board member of the British Safety Council. Attendees included Professor Dame Carol Black, Professor Cary Cooper, Norman Lamb MP and representatives from Aon, the HSE, Royal Mail, Tideway, Vitality and the TUC. The roundtable covered a wide range of topics including the nature of workplace wellbeing, how to manage and measure wellbeing and how to incentivise companies to adopt wellbeing practices.

Not Just Free Fruit: Wellbeing at Work report.



Eleven leaders in their fields met at British Safety Council's roundtable on 20 March 2019 to discuss wellbeing in the workplace.





# Presenteeism

**Following consultation with British Safety Council staff and stakeholders and a series of workshops and brainstorms it was agreed that we would develop a new campaign on workplace presenteeism.**

Our work in 2019 and sessions at our annual conference looked at the growing phenomenon of presenteeism and its impact on workplace wellbeing. At the annual conference several speakers talked about presenteeism, its steady rise following the 2008 financial crisis and its wider impact on workplace wellbeing. We formed a new partnership with the health insurer Vitality – which runs the annual survey Britain’s Healthiest Workplace. It was initiated in 2013 in response to the fact that many UK employers are failing to invest in the health and wellbeing of their staff.

Since then the survey has engaged over 510 organisations and nearly 200,000 employees have taken part. The 2019 survey revealed that health-related lost productivity is costing the UK economy £91 billion a year. Vitality has given the British Safety Council exclusive access to data from the survey and produced a summary of the survey’s key insights on presenteeism which will underpin our future campaigning.

**To find out more about our campaigns please contact Head of Campaigns Matthew Holder:**

[matthew.holder@britsafe.org](mailto:matthew.holder@britsafe.org)



# News and Media

**The British Safety Council secured strong media coverage in 2019. In total we secured 1,384 pieces of global coverage and 555 pieces of coverage in the UK, including 178 about Mates in Mind – a significant increase in coverage and reach on 2018.**

Key stories included our commentary on the importance of wearing seatbelts following a car accident involving Prince Philip in the Sun.

Time to Breathe was extensively covered including by the Times and the Financial Times at the launch of the campaign in March and throughout the year.

Our events continue to score strong coverage globally, both when the International Safety Awards are announced and at the awards ceremony itself.

Our monthly magazine Safety Management was published in 11 monthly editions. The new Safety Management microsite was finished and design changes incorporated into the print edition. British Safety Council staff continued to contribute regularly to trade press across the sector.

**To find out more about our news and publications please contact Charles Pitt:**

[charles.pitt@britsafe.org](mailto:charles.pitt@britsafe.org)

Safety Management magazine



Safety Management poster



# Advocacy

**Ahead of the general election on 12 December 2019 the Chief Executive of the British Safety Council Mike Robinson wrote to the leaders of the main parties with the following manifesto asks:**

1. The next government will maintain the highest standards of health, safety and wellbeing regulations and employee rights, ensuring that the UK continues to be a world leader in health, safety and wellbeing regulations and enforcement.
2. The next government will legislate to improve air quality across the UK including by adopting WHO guideline levels, working with the Health and Safety Executive to recognise air pollution as an occupational health hazard and investing in pollution monitoring.
3. The next government will protect and enhance workers' rights by enshrining in law the right of employees to request workplace modifications on health and other grounds.
4. The next government will abolish the minimum earning threshold on sick pay.
5. The next government will amend the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) to include explicit duties of employers to safeguard the mental health of their workers and reduce the risk of exposure to work-related stress.
6. The next government will commit to resourcing the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities and other regulatory bodies with adequate funding to ensure they proactively promote health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace and ensure compliance as a minimum standard.

A fuller version of the manifesto asks is available [here](#).




British Safety Council's roundtable discussion on wellbeing in the workplace.





# Advocacy cont.

We conducted a full analysis of each manifesto and produced a response [British Safety Council: our response to the manifestos.](#)

	 <b>Conservatives</b>	 <b>Labour</b> labour.org.uk	 <b>Liberal Democrats</b>
<b>Keeping high standards</b>	★ ★	★ ★	★ ★
<b>Air quality</b>	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
<b>Worker's rights</b>	★	★ ★ ★	★ ★
<b>Sick pay</b>	★	★ ★	★ ★
<b>Mental health at work</b>	★	★ ★	★ ★ ★
<b>Resourcing health and safety</b>	—	★	★

Over the course of 2019 British Safety Council undertook a comprehensive review of its policy positions under six new overarching themes:

- European reform
- Leadership and participation
- Mental health
- Occupational health and wellbeing
- Regulation and enforcement
- Vulnerable workers.

We rationalised and revised our policy positions on the following:

- Young workers
- Competency and capability
- Occupational road risk
- Occupational health and wellbeing
- Presenteeism
- Ageing workforce
- Mental health in the workplace
- Regulatory enforcement

- The OH&S implications of UK withdrawal from the EU
- Improving health safety and wellbeing in developing countries
- Worker participation
- Leadership and top management commitment
- Integration of health and safety into business processes
- Vulnerable workers
- Work-related disease
- Risk management
- Sentencing guidelines for health and safety offences
- Air pollution
- Technology, automation and the impact on workers
- Building fire safety.

Grouping our policy positions under six overarching positions, will enable us to focus resources when we campaign, identifying the areas of policy where we can have most impact and where there is most work to be done. We are developing ways of sharing our policy positions and of ensuring that they are up-to-date and relevant to policy discussions in government, the Health and Safety Executive and amongst our members.

The British Safety Council increased its visibility with political audiences, attending the Conservative Party Conference, the Industry in Parliament Trust and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Wellbeing.

**To find out more about the British Safety Council's policy work contact Head of Policy and Influencing Charles Pitt:**  
charles.pitt@britsafe.org

# Sector Interest Groups

**The British Safety Council's sector interest groups bring together health and safety professionals from organisations with shared interest and across specific sectors. We currently run sector interest groups for:**

- **Manufacturing, transport and logistics**
- **Healthcare**
- **Construction**
- **Stadia**
- **Retail**
- **Housing and local authorities.**

Sector interest groups meet three to four times a year, usually rotating between members' premises. They comprise a policy update from the British Safety Council and an opportunity to share in confidence recent successes and times things have gone wrong – "Share with pain, share with pride". A brief note of meetings is sent to members. In addition to regular agenda items the British Safety Council invites guest speakers of interest and the hosts often provide a tour of their site. To find out more about sector interest groups please contact.

Topics covered in 2019 included the implementation of ISO 45001, preparation for Brexit, developments in UK politics, mental health and wellbeing, and protecting lone workers.

**To find out more about the British Safety Council's events contact Senior Events Manager Nicky Glueck:**

[nicky.glueck@britsafe.org](mailto:nicky.glueck@britsafe.org)



# Our Events

**The highlight of our events calendar was our 11th Annual Conference in London in October. Keynote speakers included Prof Cary Cooper (Manchester University), a world-leading expert in workplace wellbeing and Professor David Fishwick, Chief Medical Adviser to the Health and Safety Executive.**

We attended several major health and safety expos providing delegates with information on health and safety audits and upcoming legislative changes in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

At the Health and Safety North expo in October 2019 the British Safety Council was the official educational partner with Western Business Exhibitions and provided seminar and panels on health and safety legislation, sentencing guidelines, leadership, health and wellbeing and mental health.

The British Safety Council ran seminars on digital learning, ISO 45001, our Time to Breathe campaign and mental health at the Safety and Health Expo June 2019, the UK's largest health and safety exhibition.

We ran conferences in Bahrain, Dubai and – for the first time – in Mumbai covering the future workplace, leadership, culture, wellbeing and ISO45001.

International Safety Awards.



British Safety Council Annual Conference.





## Our Events cont.

In November we hosted health and safety's most prestigious awards ceremony at Merchant Taylor's Hall in the heart of the City of London: Sword of Honour and Globe of Honour. These are awarded for the highest achievements in health and safety and environmental management. In April we hosted the International Safety Awards.

Award winners came from a wide range of sectors in the UK, Europe and the Middle East in sectors including construction, education and training, energy generation, food and drink, leisure, logistics, manufacturing, retail and transport. The 86 Sword of Honour and nine Globe of Honour winners were able to demonstrate to an independent adjudication panel a proven track record of excellence in managing risks to workers' health and safety and to the environment.

The British Safety Council paid particular tribute to eight organisations that won the double (i.e. both the Sword of Honour and the Globe of Honour). They were: BAE Systems Naval Ships, UK, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, UAE, Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects (DAEP) UAE, Milaha – Container Shipping, Qatar, Milaha Internal Audit, Qatar, Qatargas Operating Company Ltd Commercial & Shipping Group Shipping Department, Qatar, TECOM Group, UAE and Unipart Logistics.

For the first time, the British Safety Council has also presented two special awards. The Outstanding Practice Award has been created to recognise organisations that during the course of their Five Star Audit have demonstrated outstanding practice. This year, the winning organisation, selected for their approach to risk communication and use of technology, was Aston Martin Lagonda.

**To find out more about the British Safety Council's events contact Senior Events Manager Nicky Glueck:**  
[nicky.glueck@britsafe.org](mailto:nicky.glueck@britsafe.org)

Sword and Globe of Honour Luncheon, London.





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## **No-one should be injured or made ill through their work.**

Our mission is to keep people as safe and healthy as possible in their work through education and practical guidance. We look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

If you have any enquiries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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