

The Health and Safety “Albatross”

6 January 2012

The Prime Minister has declared “war against the excessive health and safety culture that has become an albatross around the neck of British businesses”.

Mr Cameron has pledged to make the following changes to Britain’s health and safety regime by the end of this year:

- Abolish or consolidate up to half of existing health and safety regulations – the Health and Safety Executive is to begin this task this month.
- Abolish the requirement for businesses to report minor accidents.
- Exempt a million self-employed workers from health and safety regulation completely.
- Extend the existing fixed cost scheme in England and Wales, which limits lawyers’ fees from personal injury claims worth under £10,000 resulting from road traffic accidents, to cover claims against employers and cases where the compensation payout is up to £25,000.

Mr Cameron is also planning to meet with Britain’s leading insurance companies next month to investigate whether businesses are paying too much cover.

Mr Cameron believes that these changes will give “British businesses the freedom and discretion they need to grow, create jobs and drive our economy forward”.

We will be keeping a close eye on developments and will keep you updated.

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