

# APPG on Working at Height

## MANIFESTO 2023-24



Working at Height

### Protecting people at height

Welcome to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Working at Height meeting on December 12, 2023. We welcome the engagement with industry leaders, stakeholders, and political figures to champion a safer environment for those working at height.

Supported by the Access Industry Forum (AIF), representing the ten principal not-for-profit work at height specialist industry bodies, the AIF advances safety, best practices, and competency in working at height.

Everyone who needs to work at height should be able to work safely and return home unharmed at the end of every shift. The UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) statistics highlight that falls from height are consistently the leading cause of workplace fatalities. Home and leisure accident data is not always reported, but we know non-fatal falls often result in life-altering consequences for individuals, families, and colleagues. We aim to address these challenges with four requests:

### Simplified reporting – help everyone to focus on positive change

Several government agencies and organisations collect elements of accident data with varying effectiveness. We are calling for a simple reporting system enabling quick and easy reporting:

- **Regulators** will gain a better understanding of where to focus interventions and planned work
- Through improvements to work practices, alleviate pressure on a **stretched healthcare system**
- Applying shared learning, **Industry** can improve products and adjust training to keep people safe

### Everyone playing their part

From government to employers, clients to employees – we all have a part to play in keeping people who need to work at height safe, whether at work, home or leisure.

- **Government** can show its continued commitment to preventing falls from height by adopting the Work at Height Regulations as Assimilated Law.
- With direct access and an influential voice, **Trade Unions** have a vital role in raising awareness amongst workers – from sharing knowledge on working safely to speaking up in the workplace
- **The HSE** should spotlight 'Protecting people at height' in its 'Protecting people and places' strategy - holding every stakeholder (including clients, architects, designers, employers, sub-contractors, and employees) to account where unsafe practices are discovered
- **Suppliers** have a duty of care to make sure their products are safe, fit for purpose and supplied with all information and parts so they can be used safely

### Embracing technology to stop falls

Championing cutting-edge technology and modern construction methods, the UK excels in innovation and boasts one of Europe's lowest rates of fatal injuries. The APPG is dedicated to encouraging technology to stop falls, including:

- Supporting the HSE Science Discovering Safety initiative on **leading indicators** to predict risk
- Developments in **wearable technologies** to protect and alert against potential danger
- Mobile apps to provide information, competence verification and micro-learning at **point of need**
- Virtual and augmented reality to provide **realistic training scenarios** and plan work better

### Raise awareness of the consequences of falls and objects falling from height

Boosting awareness of the No Falls Foundation, the first and only charity devoted exclusively to the work at height sector, and improving stakeholder understanding of fall-related consequences is a crucial focus for the APPG. We're supporting a campaign with the foundation, coordinating a research plan and creating campaign materials. No Falls Week, starting May 13 2024, is an opportunity to turn a spotlight onto the mental, physical, and societal consequences of working at height accidents.

Supported by



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