

## HSE Faces 12% Grant Cut

**The HSE's government funding is due to be cut by more than 12% over the next 3 years, according to the regulator's business plan.**

The reduction from £140.9m in 2016/17 to £123.4m in 2019/20 follows a 35% cut in the grant since 2010/11. Public funding will count for 60% of the HSE's £235m budget in 2016/17. The remaining £94m will come from the executive's activities, including the fee for intervention charging scheme, up from £86m in 2015/16. The executive's recently published strategy, *Helping Great Britain Work Well*, places emphasis on industry bodies' and dutyholders' responsibility to help improve national injury and ill health statistics. The plan ([bit.ly/246ugJD](http://bit.ly/246ugJD)) commits the HSE to reviewing its sector strategies and publishing updated versions aligned with the UK strategy by the end of the year. By mid-2016 it will also find three significant industry initiatives to support. The plan identifies challenges from economic, technological and sectoral changes, particularly in oil and gas. It states: "*More than half of the UKCS [UK Continental Shelf] offshore installations are operating beyond their original design life,*" noting that the HSE will begin to publish inspection scores in its offshore statistic report. The plan says the regulator is aware of potential cyber threats that could affect the risk profiles of major hazard sites. It will also publish an ill-health strategy by the end of the year. This is a long term project that will incorporate partners including the NHS and aim to promote behavioural change. The plan states that the HSE will "*sustain Inspector focus on major health risks, specifically those linked to Legionella, silica dust, carcinogens and asthmagens in woodworking, welding fumes, and musculoskeletal disorders in food production.*" The plan commits Inspectors to making 20,000 pro-active inspections in 2016/17 and says they will inspect up to 1,000 asbestos removal sites. The HSE plans to review and simplify chemicals health and safety regulations, specifically the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, the Control of Lead Regulations 2002, and the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002. It will also publish draft guidance this autumn to take forward a proposal to place less emphasis on written risk assessments "*without reducing standards*". By April 2017, the HSE wants to conduct 20,000 pro-active workplace inspections as well as those prompted by injury reports by dutyholders.