



# CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SAFETY PROFESSION

Steve Granger  
President

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health

# A. Challenges for the future of OSH



## B. Challenges for the profession

***Surviving*** the economy and political storms

***Delivering*** quality and a professional service

***Learning*** new skill sets

***Standardising*** competence criteria

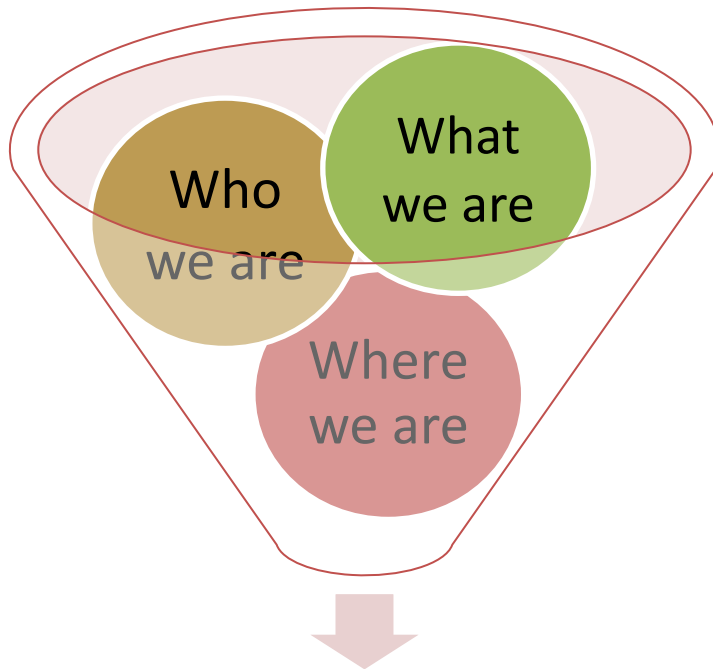
***Recognition*** and parity across the global market

***Strategic partnering*** and working together

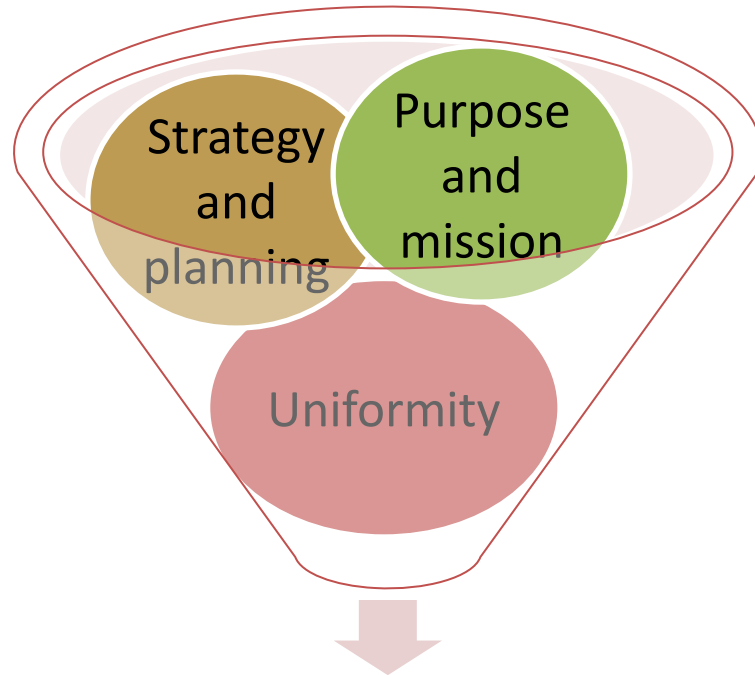
***Developing*** figureheads to champion OSH

***Succession planning*** for safety leaders

Rising to meet these challenges we need to ....



'Reflect on'



'Act with'

## *Who are we?*

The OSH practitioner – from there to here, but where next?

- Worker representation and employee rights
- Philanthropic employers and politicians
- High risk employers and factory safety
- Supervisor to manager to executive
- Consultant and specialist
- Ancillary professions and skills - occupational health
- Business management and corporate risk strategy

## *Who we are* - OSH Internal Influence/s



# *What we are –*

## The ever changing world of OSH

- ***Culture*** – our ‘clients’ belief ranges from safety consciousness to safety complacency
- ***Our Career*** - From second career to a professional vocation
- ***Our Competence*** - From learning everything to recognising limits and using resources
- ***Our Community*** - From combative to conducive partnerships within OSH



## *Where we are – Our world of OSH*

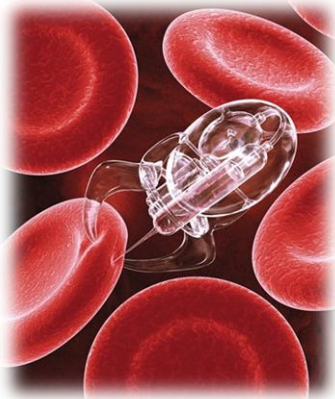
- ***Communications*** - From corded telephones to cloud based chips
- ***Commitment*** - escalating the value of our services on offer and talking ourselves 'up'
- ***Conducting our affairs*** - through professional institutions and codes of conduct
- ***Curriculum*** – developing the profession and the individual by investing in our products of 'knowledge and skill'.....

## Safety – to health (and beyond)

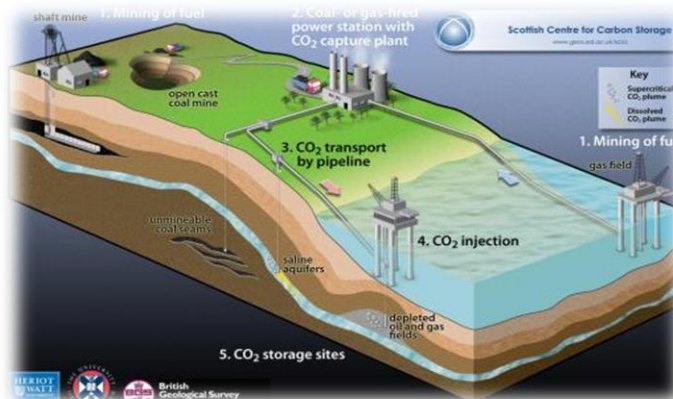
- ***Safety*** - a simple subject at first sight....
- ***Health*** - Anatomy to Zoonoses
- ***Employment law*** - Culture and consultation
- ***Human rights*** – Community expectations
- ***Wellbeing*** - at work (and at home?)
- ***Environment*** – Publicity and Penalties
- ***Business skill*** – manager, advisor and executive
- ***Risk Management*** - Cost benefit and Insurance
- ***CSR*** - Morality, sustainability and ethics

And back again.....

# Emerging technologies for the profession



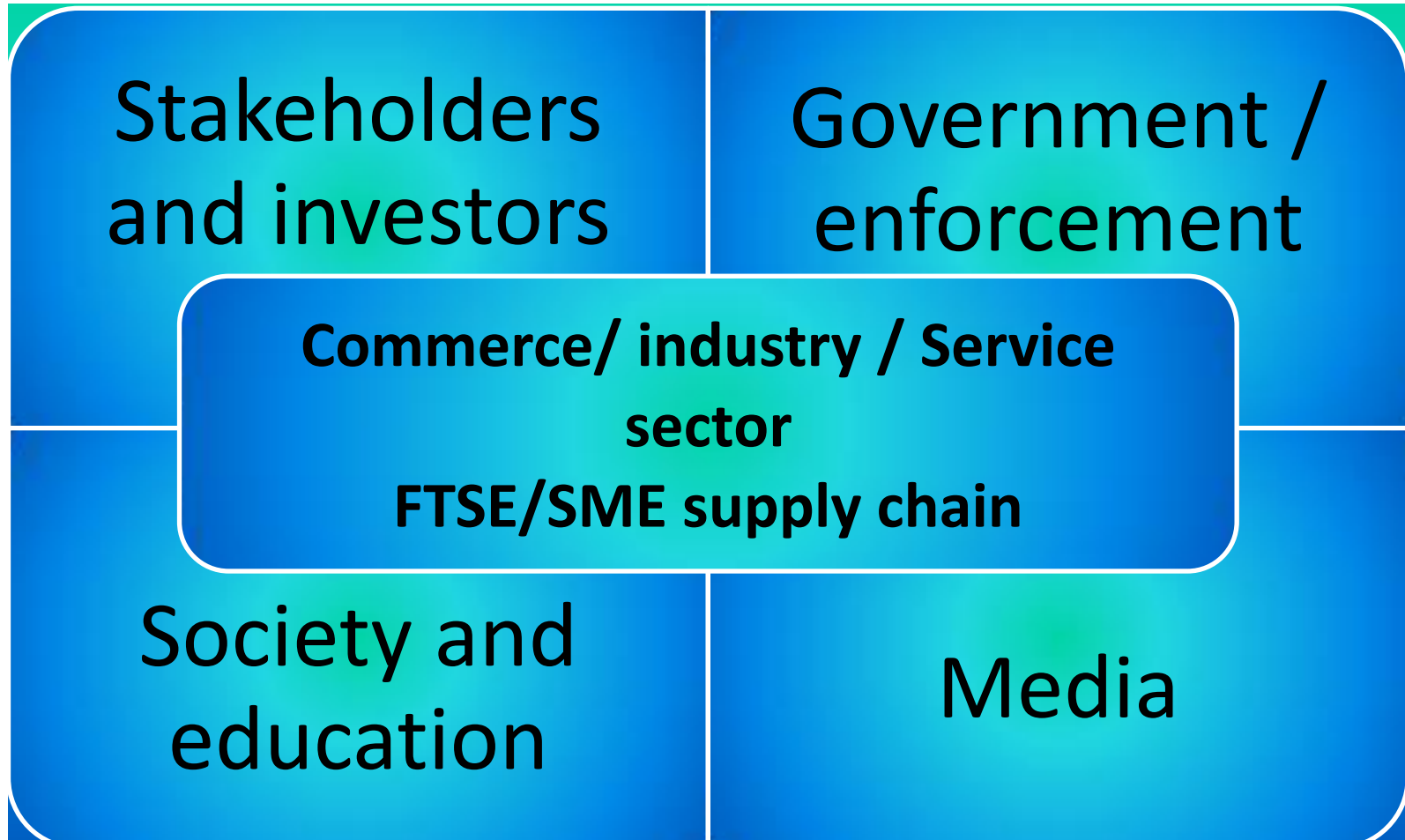
- The human factor – demographics, culture understanding
- Globalisation and global workforce
- Nano technology
- Energy production and fuels
- Environmental - Carbon emission and CO2 storage



## OSH in the UK, EU and further

- ***We are developing and maintaining;***
  - International standards (EU, ILO, ISO, regional)
  - International Partnerships
  - Recognition of professional competence and transferable skills
  - Benchmarking performance
- ***Center for Health and Safety Sustainability***  
developing metrics
- ***But our challenges are still evident;***
  - Language and comprehension problems
  - Culture and understanding problems

## OSH External Influence/s



## Public perception, policy and politics

- ***Public opinion*** – expressed and revealed preferences!
- ***Press and media*** management
- ***Political pressure*** - Common sense, common safety
- ***OHSCR*** - at last or at least?
- ***De-regulating, re-regulating or refining?*** – Professor Ragnar Lofstedt (or the Cullen report continued)
- ***Enforcement policy*** - challenge, economic opportunity or further towards self regulation
- ***Potential repercussions*** - from EU (sfrp, ECHR, HRA )
- ***Statistics and reporting*** – changing the yardstick at a time of change?
- ***Corporate manslaughter*** – witness or defendant

# Hazard and risk - old problems with new faces

- ***Understanding new hazards*** – developing our knowledge
- ***Measuring the risks*** – re-evaluating and making adjustment,
  - the standard of care goes up as men become wiser , Lord Denning vs can we ever do less than we have done before(sfrp?)
- ***Likelihood and severity changes***
  - eg; ROPS, FOPS, SIPS and WHIPS vs vehicle speeds and use
  - Medical advances vs occupational (and domestic) asthma
  - Demographic , aging workforce vs job market
- ***Societal tolerance and innovation (benefits) v OSH***
  - PCs, email, smart phones vs stress and work patterns
  - Mobile phones vs radiation and driving issues
  - Entertainment (iPod & music festivals ) vs work related hearing damage

# CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SAFETY PROFESSION

## Are they challenges or our opportunities?

- ***Listening*** to the community we operate in
- ***Retaining*** core skills and knowledge
- ***Keeping up*** with innovation and technology
- ***Developing*** and increasing competencies
- ***Presenting*** risk information in a realistic way
- ***Proposing*** solutions and not sitting on the fence or bowing to convenience
- ***Sustaining*** our position and professional judgement
- ***Diplomacy*** not dictatorship, OSH is part of life not the reason for it



Thank you

Steve Granger

President

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