

WISH STATEMENT

2 April 2020

WISH recognises the urgency of the need of the industry for information about how to deal with the risks associated with COVID-19 and wants to do what it can to help. Hence we have done our best to produce, as quickly as possible, information to summarise what good practice looks like in the industry on this important issue.

The draft document provoked considerable interest and comment. Over 50 replies were received in within 72 hours of the publication of the draft and many of these were lengthy and detailed. We are extremely grateful for all of the interest in and comments that we received upon the draft document.

As is often the case the changes requested or proposed by different respondents were in some cases mutually conflicting. In other places there was greater consistency of response. We have done our best to review and weigh all of the comments as quickly as possible and to produce the first issue version of the information note INFO13.

We recognise that this document has been prepared in great haste and therefore notwithstanding our most diligent efforts it may contain some errors. We hope and expect that any errors will be minor in nature. In order to respond to changes in the advice from HM Government agencies, and in knowledge about SARS-CoV-2, we will be keeping INFO13 under constant review. Comments on errors or potential improvement to INFO13 will be welcomed on an ongoing basis and will be fed into the review process. Please mail them to info@wishforum.org.uk.

We wish to be clear about the status of this document. We have taken great care to ensure that the information note is consistent with the advice and information being published by PHE, HSE, HM Government and the Devolved Administrations and have indicated the source of the advice that we are referring to widely through the document.

Notwithstanding that WISH were invited to do this with urgency by DEFRA, and that the drafting has been undertaken with input, advice and support from the HSE (including HSE specialists of various topics) it would be going too far to claim that WISH INFO 13 has been “endorsed by HSE and the public health agencies”. We do not do so, and have not done so. This is a WISH information document and nothing more.

I’d like to thank the team that has worked incredibly hard to bring this document together and all of those that have contributed by responding to the draft, provided specialist advise against very challenging timescales and allowed the document to be pulled together and published. It shows what can be achieved by the dedicated collaboration of industry-wide professionals in a time of need. I take my hat off to you all.

Take Care and Stay Safe