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c/o VisitBritain  
Thames Tower  
Blacks Road  
London  
W6 9EL

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8846 9000  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 8563 3257  
E-mail: [bv&ep@visitbritain.org](mailto:bv&ep@visitbritain.org)

## Business Visits & Events Partnership

LEADING THE WAY FOR BRITAIN'S EVENTS

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### EVENT INDUSTRY AND HSE AGREE TO REVISE THE PURPLE GUIDE

Agreement has been reached between the event industry and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) to revise and republish the much used Purple Guide ("The Event Safety Guide - A Guide to Health, Safety & Welfare at Music and Similar Events").

A Steering Group is being set up and work is expected to start shortly on redrafting the guide to take account of the changes in practices and legislation since the original was published in 1993.

The new revised guide will have a greater focus on risk assessment and management of health and safety. It will clearly set out the health & safety duties of all those involved in putting on events to ensure the wellbeing of employees, contractors and the public. The revision will also provide an opportunity to improve the existing format by the addition of case studies, practical information on risk management. Changes to the structure of the guide will make it even easier to use. It will be cross referenced to other sources of information and the Event Industry Forum (EIF), which has been negotiating on behalf of the industry, has made a commitment to provide guidance on non health and safety issues which are nonetheless important to consider. The intention is that these, together with the new Guide, will be available from a central website as a complete 'virtual' guide.

The EIF has developed an on-line consultation system which will allow everyone in the industry to contribute to the process of developing the Event Safety Guide.

Based around an internet site, which will be available through the EIF site at [www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk](http://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk), the process will involve a series of working groups taking responsibility for writing and consulting on different areas of the Guide. Each Working Group will be managed by a trade body from the industry and other relevant stakeholders. Each will have its own chair.

While the Working Groups will take responsibility for assessing the content, and drafting each section of the Guide, the whole process is intended to be as transparent as possible with each up-date being posted to the website as it is written. This open approach will enable everyone in the industry to keep up with progress and comment on the contents of each section as it evolves.

People in the industry can register their interest in each section on line and will then receive email alerts whenever updates are posted on the site.

While the HSE will be leading and publishing the new 'purple guide' the EIF is aiming to develop guidelines for event organisers on non-health and safety issues. These will all be brought together on a website to create a one-stop 'virtual' guide which everyone in the industry will be able to access and which the EIF, HSE and others can keep updated.

[www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com](http://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com)

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"We really want to make this process as open and all-bracing as possible," says Jim Winship, Director of TESA and Secretary of the EIF. "While we have been lobbying for one comprehensive event guide, the HSE's remit precludes them from leading funding and publishing guidance which does not exclusively focus on health and safety issues.. However, we are confident that by cross referencing the Guide with other event guidance and the creation of a virtual one-stop shop for events organisers and others in the industry this will ensure the delivery of high quality sustainable guidance.

"The immediate priority is for everyone to register their interests on our website – we can then make sure they receive progress reports and notification of work plans as they evolve."

Anyone interested can register on the EIF website at [http://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk/purple\\_guide/form.shtml](http://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk/purple_guide/form.shtml)

The aim is to get work underway on drafting the new Guide this Spring and before the summer season. It is hoped to have it ready in 2011 prior to the Olympics the following year.

Although the Event Industry Forum is not itself an industry body, it brings together most of the event sector trade bodies to provide a means for them to work together for the joint good of the industry. Details can be found at [www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk](http://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk)

– Ends –

## Further information can be obtained by contacting Jim Winship

Tel: 01291 636331 email: [jim@tesa.org.uk](mailto:jim@tesa.org.uk)

### Note to editors:

The Business Visits and Events Partnership's aim is to lead the way in supporting a competitive, high quality and more profitable business visits and events sector in Britain.

The Partnership seeks to provide a cohesive industry voice and will work with VisitBritain and other government departments and agencies to influence and develop policies and practices favourable to the growth of tourism, trade and creative enterprise from business visits and events.

The Business Visits and Events Partnership has the support of the leading trade organisations and government agencies with an interest in conferences, meetings, exhibitions, trade fairs, incentive travel, corporate hospitality, and business, sporting, cultural and festival events.

- Business travel is worth over £22 billion in terms of its wider economic impact through associated visitor expenditure on travel, entertainment, shopping, pre- and post-conference tours etc. In addition, the value of business transacted at business events is estimated to generate in excess of £100 billion a year.
- The 2008 International Passenger Survey figures for inbound business visits and events indicate over 8.1 million visits spending £4.6 billion
- Business visits in 2008 generated 109% more spending in real terms than in 1979 (leisure increase was 18%).
- The sector generates 25% of all overseas visits and 28% of all inbound tourism earnings.
- Business visits and events create high quality, year round employment opportunities accounting for some 530,000 jobs indirectly and directly.
- Around 80 million people attend 1.5 million conferences and meetings annually in the UK.
- Business visitors spend on average £131 per day – 72% more than the daily rate spent by a leisure visitor, with attendees at exhibitions spending 193% more than the leisure visitor.
- 450 major events take place annually in the UK contributing more than £1 billion.

For further information on business visits and events please refer to: [www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com](http://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com)