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Manifesto June 2024

**Too many people are being killed at work after falling from height.
It's time for change.**

Everyone who works at height deserves to go home safely at the end of every shift

The problem

In 2022/23 alone¹



40 people died



>5,000 people reported injured

- Falls from height remain the **leading cause of workplace fatalities and injuries** in Great Britain.
- Last year alone, **40 people died** at work due to a fall from height.
- The same year, **over 5,000 people were reported injured** at work after falling from height.
- Many falls from height go **unreported**, so the real numbers are significantly higher.
- The number of **workers killed has increased**, and the number of reported **injuries shows little improvement**.

This is not acceptable.

The solution

Introduce a simple, more effective system of accident reporting so that we can identify and tackle the root causes of falls from height to save workers' lives.

The scale of the problem

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publish work-related fatal and non-fatal injuries statistics annually. These incidents are required by law to be reported by employers through **RIDDOR** (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations).

In the last 10 years (2013/14 – 2022/23p):

357 people died after falling from height at work¹.

That's enough to fill a jumbo jet.



Over 53,000 were *reported* injured after falling from height at work¹.

That's enough to fill a football stadium.




Substantial underreporting of non-fatal falls from height

In addition to employer reported RIDDOR incidents, the HSE estimates the scale of non-fatal workplace injury using their preferred source, the self-reported Labour Force Survey (LFS).

According to the LFS, the number of non-fatal falls from height in 2022/23 alone were estimated to be up to 33,000 (that's 90 people every day)².

In the last 10 years that figure is estimated to be as many as 425,000².

 up to **33,000**
self-reported injuries
in 2022/23

 up to **425,000**
self-reported injuries
over the last 10 years

Costs of falls from height

Along with the lives, families and businesses affected by these accidents, **up to 992,000 working days were lost** through self-reported falls from height in Great Britain in 2022/23².

Not only that, the total cost of falls from height in 2022/23 is estimated to be **over £847 million**, made up of costs to the employer and the individual, NHS, government tax losses and benefit payments³.

up to
 **992,000**
working days lost in 2022/23
due to self-reported falls from height

over
 **£847million**
estimated total cost of falls from height
in 2022/23

But we don't know why?

Right now, the **data collected on workplace accidents is limited**, making it almost impossible to pinpoint what exactly caused the fall from height.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We need to reduce the number of workers who are being killed or injured at work due to a fall from height.

Most falls from height are avoidable, but **only if we can understand what's causing them** in the first place.

Our ask of the next Government

The Access Industry Forum, supported by the No Falls Foundation, are calling for the next Government to:

- **Introduce a simple system of reporting and data collection** for workplace accidents, where the **cause of accident is reported alongside the type of accident.**
- **Make it easier and clearer for employers** to report workplace accidents.
- Show its commitment to preventing falls from height by **safeguarding the Work at Height Regulations in their current form**, without the risk of dilution.
- Pledge your support for the re-establishment of the [**All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) on Working at Height**](#) and its important role in progressing our manifesto.

Everyone who works at height deserves to go home safely at the end of every shift.

We're asking for a simplified reporting system to save lives.

About the Access Industry Forum

Established in 2004, the Access Industry Forum (AIF) is the not-for-profit forum for the ten principal trade associations and federations involved in work at height.

Each AIF member organisation represents a different sector of the access industry and are recognised leaders and authorities in their respective fields. Together we support codes of good practice, equipment standards, training, education and knowledge, with our guidance trusted by Government and Regulators.

We want everyone to work safely and competently at height, using appropriate equipment, with all workers professionally trained to industry-recognised standards.

The AIF actively supports the work of the APPG on Working at Height, which brings together MPs and stakeholders from across industry and its re-establishment is vital in our campaign for simplified reporting.

Further information accessindustryforum.org.uk

About the No Falls Foundation

The No Falls Foundation is the charity devoted exclusively to the work at height sector. The Foundation is dedicated to preventing falls from height and helping people affected by the life-changing consequences of a fall.

The No Falls Foundation, in partnership with stakeholders such as the AIF, other trade associations, professional bodies and organisations who are committed to preventing falls from height, has three distinct objectives:

1. Education: Raising awareness of the risks of working at height and the promotion of safe working at height
2. Research: Research into the causes of falls from height and how to prevent them
3. Support: Providing help and support to those who have been affected by a fall from height.

Get involved and support No Falls Week, the Foundation's annual safe work at height campaign, which takes place 12-16 May 2025.

Further information nofallsfoundation.org or nofallsweek.org



References

¹ RIDDOR - Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations - Kind of accident statistic in Great Britain, 2023

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm#riddor>

² Labour Force Survey

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/index.htm#injuries>

³ HSE Costs to Britain Model

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/cost.htm>

Contact

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