

Major event on brain injury to be held in Grampian for first time next month

Concern expressed as Health and Safety Executive statistics show increase in number of serious head injuries suffered by offshore industry workers

A major event on brain injury will be held in Grampian for the first time next month with organisers of the Grampian Head Injury Information Day urging those living with brain injuries, their families, friends and carers to attend.

The free public event will be held at Aberdeen's Hilton Treetops Hotel on Wednesday 18th March and will be attended by charities, support groups and professionals from across the North East, along with national organisations. Speakers at the event will include senior professionals from NHS Grampian working in the field of brain injury and representatives of the Brain Injury Grampian Group (B.I.G), a charity who works to support people with acquired brain injury in the region.

Digby Brown Solicitors, principal supporters of the event, have highlighted the events' particular relevance to the region, noting that the number of head injuries sustained by workers in the offshore oil and gas industry has increased in the last three years.

Health and Safety Executive statistics show more head injuries being reported with a higher percentage classified as 'Major' injuries.

Kathleen McMonagle, one of the organisers of Head Injury Information Day, said:

"All too often brain injury can be a hidden disability but it is important that people in Grampian are aware of the wide range of support and services they can access. This event brings together organisations and professionals working in the field and I would really encourage anyone living with a brain injury, their families and carers to come along."

Lisa Gregory, head of Digby Brown Solicitors' Aberdeen office and a specialist in representing those injured offshore, added:

“With official statistics showing a worrying rise in head injuries reported in the offshore industry, this event is very timely. We need to understand why there are more injuries of this type happening and what needs to happen in order to reverse this trend as quickly as possible. No one should be injured in the course of their work, wherever it is.”

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Notes to Editors

1. Grampian Head Injury Information Day takes place on Wednesday 18th March 2015 in the Hilton Treetops Hotel, Aberdeen from 10am – 2pm. It is a free information event for professionals and for people affected by all types of acquired brain injury and head injury, including families and carers.
2. Page 10 of the Health and Safety Executive's "Annual offshore Statistics & Regulatory activity report 2013/14" shows the increases in both the number of head injuries reported in each year since 2011/12 and the increased percentage of these classified as "Major.". The report can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/offshore
3. The BIG group is a small charity aiming to support people in Grampian affected by ABI, raising awareness of the condition and reducing the social isolation often experienced by people affected by ABI. More information on the group's work can be found at <http://brain-injury-grampian.weebly.com/>

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