

Buncefield Major Incident Investigation

Chair: Lord Newton of Braintree

Mr Bill Callaghan
Chair
Health and Safety Commission
Rose Court
2 Southwark Bridge
London SE1 9HS

Buncefield Major Incident Investigation
Marlowe Room
Rose Court
2 Southwark Bridge
London SE1 9HS

Tel: 020 7717 6909
Fax: 020 7717 6082
email: Buncefield.InfoRequest@hse.gsi.gov.uk

www.buncefieldinvestigation.gov.uk

Dear Bill,

11 July 2006

I am pleased to present to you this Initial Report of the Buncefield Investigation Board, in fulfilment of that element in our terms of reference which requires such a report "once the main facts have been established. Although forensic work continues - and much remains to be done in particular to understand the forces of the explosion - we consider that position has now been reached.

As you know, much of the information summarised and up-dated here has already been placed in the **public domain** through the three Progress Reports by the Investigation Manager which the Board has **published**. I hope you will agree that this has proved a valuable way of conveying the momentum and effectiveness of the **investigation** as well as assisting other site operators, with the HSE and the EA, to take appropriate **action** to **minimise risks** of any **similar** occurrence elsewhere. It has certainly been welcomed locally, in the context of our extensive engagement with residents and business groups, local authorities and the emergency services.

In addition to "the main facts", we have also taken the opportunity of the Report to summarise progress on our terms of reference more generally; to draw some broad conclusions; and to indicate issues to which we think it right to give special attention. In the coming months, we shall press vigorously ahead with the further work required to complete our remit.

I am writing in the same vein to Sir John Harman at the Environment Agency.



Rt. Hon. Lord Newton of Braintree
Chair, Buncefield Major Incident Investigation Board