

Lobby of Industry

The companies and the RMT have agreed to tackle the 2 'Lobby' schemes (both the wording, how we would plan the 'Lobby', and the other work which the Employers have undertaken to act on, with a view to introducing these schemes by 31 March 2011 (subject to ability to recoup)) as longer-term 'Work in Progress'.

There are 2 types of schemes for which we aim to introduce some form of compensation by March 2011:

General 'Standby' or 'Guaranteed Payments on Stand-down' – these provisions will outline the circumstances in which payment may be made in compensation for a worker's agreement to remain available for an assignment, during a defined period, where embarkation is delayed.

Compensation for unscheduled extensions to tours (weather excluded) – this scheme will outline the circumstances in which payment may be made in compensation for inconvenience and distress caused by unscheduled extensions to tours of duty (weather excluded).

The parties acknowledge that such provisions already exist for other work groups covered by other collective agreements, and believe that diving personnel should be treated equitably.

Accordingly, efforts to secure some form of compensation schemes to cover these two circumstances are intended to cover not only a 'Lobby' of the industry on this point of equity and the principle of recoupment, but also to raise the profile of the ODIA, and the 'business case' for using a diving contractor which supports the provisions in the collective agreement. The Signatory Companies wish also to consider contractual arrangements (reviewing ways to include appropriate clauses in contracts with clients) and operational arrangements (to try to influence the incidence of delays).

It is important to note that, in the current cost-reduction climate, the prospects of success might be limited, but the ODIA Signatory companies intend to strive to press this case with the industry.

Efforts to secure these two schemes will be underpinned by the parties' agreement to strengthen ongoing employer-level relations which will promote mutual understanding and greater collaboration, and also our work to promote the ODIA as an important contribution to the success of the UK diving industry.