

## **Principles of Workplace Health and Wellbeing Leadership**

House of Lords Launch

Remarks of Peter Davidson, Chief Executive Officer, Tank Storage Association

24 June 2026

Good afternoon. Thank you for being here.

I am grateful to Baroness Brenda Dacres OBE for hosting today's event, and to the Minister for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms, and Jane Lassey for their thoughtful reflections on the importance of preventing work-related ill health and the critical role of leadership in workplace health and wellbeing.

Almost two years on from the inaugural HSE Prevention Summit, it is encouraging to reflect on how far the conversation and, most importantly, the call to action to work in partnership to address work-related ill health has progressed.

At the Summit, I had the privilege of joining colleagues at the Major Hazards table – representing those businesses typically regulated under COMAH. We recognised that leadership is critical in managing assets that have major accident hazard potential – a lesson that we learned from the Buncefield explosion and fires of 2005.

In response to Buncefield, industry, regulators and trade unions had joined forces to address the recommendations that arose – working collaboratively to put in place the systems, technology, and cultures, to ensure a similar incident did not reoccur. This process culminated in the publication of the Process Safety Leadership Group's final report in 2009 and, of most importantly for today's launch, the Principles of Process Safety Leadership.

These Principles have since been widely adopted by the COMAH sector.

They have been instrumental in driving process safety improvement across the UK, ensuring business leaders understand what can go wrong, the measures that are in place to stop those things going wrong, and indicators to demonstrate that those measures are working as designed.

Following the 2024 Summit, industry, HSE and trade unions joined forces once again to develop a new set of Principles for Workplace Health & Wellbeing Leadership.

Today's official launch of these principles stands both as a testament to our shared commitment to workforce health and wellbeing, and our collective resolve

to support cross-industry collaboration through the sharing of best practice and key learnings.

But there is more. We now set out to make their adoption common practice, and we actively encourage all businesses across the UK and across all sectors, to read, adapt, interpret and apply these principles.

This is our call for action today – let's continue to build momentum and turn this shared ambition into lasting impact!

In closing, I would like to thank all my colleagues from the Chemicals and High Hazards Sector Group for their commitment and determination to lead from the front in driving progress on workplace health and wellbeing.

Thank you.