

Great health and safety myths



The myth Even Mr Punch needs a written risk assessment

The reality A Punch and Judy man did receive a standard letter from an organisation asking him to submit a health and safety risk assessment. However, when he questioned this, they ‘backed off’ and no paperwork was required. It sounds like wires got crossed somewhere and perhaps a standard letter was sent in error.

HSE’s guidance is clear – if there is genuinely no significant risk, nothing needs to be written down. If a written assessment is needed – keep it fit for purpose, and crucially, act on it. Paperwork without action does no one any good.