MEMORANDUM

From:	Head of Housing & Environmental Health	**To:**	Head of Development Control
Author:	David Reed	**FAO:**	Kitty Budden
Extension:	3352	**Extension:**	8266
My Ref:	EPCST/14/02893	**Your Ref:**	F/14/74579
Date:	24 July 2014	**cc:**	

F/14/74579 - Retention of edge protection handrail to existing scaffold racking
UNIT A, 73 COMMON ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1HE

Thank you for consulting this Service on the above application. I have reviewed the information held by this Service / provided by the applicant and I do not wish to recommend any conditions.

I have however included the comments that I have received from discussing the application with the (EH) Commercial team, with regards to Health & Safety.

Following a complaint from a member of the public regarding the safety of employees at M Youngs Scaffolding, this service visited the site and established that staff were working at height and that some parts of the elevated platforms were unguarded.

The management of M Youngs have a responsibility to ensure that their staff, so far as is reasonably practicable, are protected from risks of falls from height as well as ensuring that objects cannot fall on to staff or members of the public. The result of this meeting was that Mr Young was asked to take steps to ensure that adequate provisions were made to reduce the likelihood of falls (to both staff and objects).

A number of options are available to him and a hierarchy of risk reduction should be used in all cases. We also assess suitability of controls using this hierarchy. In this case the ideal would be to stop storing objects at height, thus eliminating the risk of falls by staff and objects.

The second most preferable option would be to substitute the need for staff to be at elevated (this had already been done where possible by storing goods on pallets so they can be lowered by forklift) however, some items are not suitable for lifting by fork lift.

The next option would be to use engineering controls such as a physical barrier or a man up (a cage attachment for a person to stand in that attaches to the front of a fork lift) and this method was already being used by M Youngs where appropriate.

The last two options would both be needed in this case, (administrative and PPE) and these are the least desirable controls; they require staff to follow instruction and put on equipment that takes longer to put on than it would to carry out the job itself, creating a burden on the business as well as meaning staff are less likely to comply.

In all cases the goods must be stored in such a way that they do not a present a falling object risk.

Should you wish to discuss the matters raised here I shall of course be pleased to do so.

David Reed
Scientific Officer