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A stronger voice for health and safety: Consultative Document on merging the Health and Safety Commission and Health and Safety Executive

As Minister for Health and Safety, I am pleased to welcome the Commission's consultation document on the proposed merger between HSC and HSE. As the Commission Chair notes, the present governance structures have stood the test of time well over the last thirty years with over 5000 lives saved and ill health significantly reduced. But it is important that as the economy continues to change, and standards of corporate governance evolve that the Commission and Executive change too.

I believe the case for change set out in the consultative needs to be examined now. It should enable a stronger voice for health and safety while retaining the independence of the Commission, and its strong links with key partners, notably representatives of employers, workers, and local government. But I am clear that any change needs the active support of key stakeholders. I therefore support this consultation, and look forward to hearing the responses when the Commission advises me of the outcome in the Spring.

Philip Hunt