

George Wimpey – Commitment to Social Responsibility (Health and Safety)

Statement of Affirmation by Peter M. Wilbrey of R. G. Wilbrey (Consultants) Limited

For many years, George Wimpey has been at the forefront of effective health and safety management within the private housing development industry, with many of its competitors emulating its ideas and initiatives. This has been achieved through a genuine commitment to place health and safety as its foremost, business priority. This culture is prominent at every level of management within the Company and prevails within every individual business unit.

The business of building homes has changed significantly over recent years and continues to evolve. The days when volume house-builders concentrated on a range of a few core products are no longer with us. Designs of houses and apartment blocks have become considerably more adventurous and traditional building methods are being constantly challenged. George Wimpey recognises that if health and safety are to be properly managed within this changing climate, a renewed emphasis on pre-planning is essential. Four years ago, my company established a department for the provision of Management and Technical Support (M.A.T.S.). Staffed by construction health and safety professionals, this team provides advice and support to business units, throughout the Country, on the effective planning and site design of future developments. M.A.T.S. input is available for every new project, so that potential hazards may be foreseen and either changes to design, layout etc. or specific control measures, can be prescribed.

It is of the utmost importance that site management teams are given the help and support they need, in order to achieve and maintain the high standards of health and safety on their sites. With the nature of their product changing so often new projects invariably bring fresh challenges and Site Managers often find themselves in “uncharted territory”. Regular, pertinent training is essential and George Wimpey continues in its commitment to this. Four-day induction courses are run on most weeks of the year and cover instruction in “best practice” and elucidation of the Company’s procedures and their practical application. The purpose of these courses is to ensure appropriate training for all new Site Managers, irrespective of their current levels of training and experience, before they arrive on a George Wimpey site for the first time. Furthermore, training is not restricted to site management teams, but is appropriately provided to all stake-holders. On unusual or complex developments, or in circumstances where a Site Management Team is experiencing difficulty in achieving appropriate standards of health or safety, development visits are paid to site, in addition to routine, scheduled health and safety inspections. During these visits, health and safety professionals discuss areas of concern, help with planning future works and give proactive, prescriptive advice.

My company is proud to be partnering with George Wimpey and assisting its management with its health and safety initiatives.

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