

BALLYMUN REGENERATION LIMITED



**Safety, Health, Environmental
and Community
Annual Report 2005**

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ABOUT BRL

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL) is the Dublin City Council company, set up in 1997, to plan and implement a regeneration programme which will result in a new town with new and improved facilities for the 30,000 people who will live there. BRL is working with the community to develop and implement the Masterplan for the physical, economic and social regeneration of Ballymun.

Housing

The seven fifteen-storey tower blocks, nineteen eight-storey blocks and ten four-storey blocks of flats will be demolished. They will be replaced by at least 5,000 new homes in a variety of styles and sizes in five existing neighbourhoods.

Economy

The new town is being made economically sustainable through the construction of a traditional style Main Street, with its retail and commercial services, the development of neighbourhood centres with a range of local services; and the development of lands at the M50 for employment generating uses.

Community

But it's not just about housing. Residents are enjoying the benefits of a multitude of arts, environmental action, recreational and training opportunities which go along with the regeneration. They will also enjoy the new physical infrastructure of parks, arts, and leisure facilities already built, under construction or on the drawing board.

New community facilities:

- New Civic Centre opened 2003
- AXIS arts centre opened 2001
- Sports and Leisure Centre opened 2005
- Neighbourhood Centres under construction
- Coultry Park opened December 2005 with 2 large landscaped parks under construction comprising new playing pitches, playgrounds and a range of facilities for all age groups
- Planning permission granted for new town centre development to replace the existing Shopping Centre

BRL and the community are aware that regeneration will fundamentally change peoples lives in Ballymun. Ballymun has had a unique and strong sense of identity and community spirit. To record, remember and celebrate this BRL commissioned a history project which included the writing of a history of Ballymun from the earliest times, the establishment of a community archive and the initiation of an oral history project.

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FOREWORD

The past year has been both productive and challenging for BRL for Occupational Safety and Health.

Over the past 12 months, the BRL Health & Safety Unit has continued to focus on the construction safety and associated public safety impacts and has put in place new strategies to improve safety in this important aspect of BRL responsibilities and operations.

Major achievements include the development of a package of Best Practice Model documents to raise the standards of specific high risks activities including environmental, and the development of a framework for the delivery of safety awareness for people carrying out construction work.

For all the achievements over the past year, there was tragedy by the death of an operative working on the demolition of the McDermot Tower.

In September 2005, the *Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005* was proclaimed, heralding the introduction of significant changes in safety and health laws.

I would like to thank the health & safety team members and the BRL site personnel for their valuable contributions in making Ballymun one of the safest places to work. My thanks also go to staff for their continued support and commitment.

This report is presented based on the corporate best practice reporting system using the framework of the worldwide accepted standard of the Global Reporting Initiative organisation guidelines.

Dated: _____

Ciaran Murray
Managing Director

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This report, prepared by the Health & Safety Manager, Mr John Rizzolo is the first annual report of its kind for BRL which presents best practice reporting on measuring and accounting for corporate health and safety performance which is designed to enhance board level information and demonstrate leadership of health and safety management.

The year has brought many new construction starts and many housing handovers. The main challenges continue to be the public nuisance issues such as mud on roads, out of hours works (mainly from non BRL projects), noise, dust and disruption to footpaths and roads. Thankfully there were no serious injuries sustained to members of the public. These types of issues generally reflect the lack of adherence by the contractors to the higher BRL standards and oversight as they have been used to the lower standards elsewhere.

There was a significant review of the H & S Management System during the year and consequently many new and revised documents were introduced as part of the strengthening of contractor control procedures.

The H & S Team continue to meet each quarter with the Health & Safety Authority to discuss the three month horizon of construction activities.

At BRL, we are committed to sustainable development, Health, safety, environment and community responsibilities are integral to the way we do business.

I am pleased to inform you of the advances being made, arising out of our commitment to continuous improvement and anticipate further progress in the year to come

OUR VISION

“Creating a safer and healthier working environment for our people, our community and strive to achieve leading industry best practice”

OUR PRINCIPLES

In all aspects of our work, and in all interactions with our stakeholders, We commit to a strategy that is implemented in line with the following guiding Principles:

1. Partnership and commitment to improved workplace health and safety outcomes by all stakeholders,
2. Effective communication and consultation between stakeholder groups,
3. Deal with the community complaints, enquiries in a polite, helpful and professional manner,
4. Priority be given to the goals and actions contained within the strategy,
5. Develop and use industry best practice and procedures to maintain standards of excellence,
6. The strategy to be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis to ensure currency and effectiveness.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The BRL Health and Safety Policy has been established to ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, that everyone who works for and on behalf of BRL , does so in the safest and healthiest conditions possible.

Management and Supervisory staff have the responsibility of implementing this strategy on behalf of the Company and will ensure that health and safety considerations are always given priority in the planning of and the day-to-day supervision of work. We believe that all accidents and all injuries are preventable and that good safety is good business.

Our approach to safety is based upon consultation, learning and continual improvement.

Specifically, BRL Management makes a commitment to:

- ❖ *Establish and maintain effective systems and procedures for the management of safety, health and welfare to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and other relevant statutory instruments.*
- ❖ *Prepare, implement and monitor health and safety policies to ensure BRL is operating to best standards, taking account of any relevant codes of practices.*
- ❖ *Take all reasonable care to prevent personal injury, ill health and damage to property and to protect all employees and third parties affected by the Company's activities from foreseeable work hazards.*
- ❖ *Provide and maintain a safe and healthy working environment, with safe systems and methods of work.*
- ❖ *Ensuring that all work activities are carried out by competent, suitably trained people.*
- ❖ *Ensuring that all employees, subcontractors and third parties understand that they have a personal responsibility to conduct their work in a safe manner.*
- ❖ *Provide all employees with the information, training and supervision needed to work safely.*
- ❖ *Encourage full and effective consultation with all employees on health and safety matters.*
- ❖ *Facilitate the rights of employees to select a Safety Representative.*
- ❖ *Provide training for elected Safety Representative.*
- ❖ *Provide the resources necessary to implement the Policy.*
- ❖ *Provide a framework for continual improvement by setting, auditing and reviewing health and safety objectives and targets and ensuring their effective implementation.*

The Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. Health and Safety Statement will be communicated to all employees. It will be reviewed regularly and amended as circumstances require.

The implementation of the Company Health and Safety Statement will be audited at least annually.

As Managing Director of the Company with ultimate responsibility for employee Health & Safety, I endorse the Health and Safety Policy as being applicable to all operations within this Company.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

There were approximately 76 staff including consultants working for BRL during the year. Their health and safety is the ultimate responsibility of the Managing Director. The Managing Director has delegated the overall management of the provisions of the *Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005* and associated Statutory Regulations in relation to the activities and operations of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. to the Health & Safety Manager. In addition, the Health & Safety Manager will co-ordinate common areas of Health and Safety policy with Dublin City Council.

Health and safety organisational arrangements, specific responsibilities of managers and employees, work practices and procedures which must be adhered to, are set out in the Corporate Safety Statement document and in the BRL Safety Statement.

The day-to-day responsibility for implementation of health and safety policies, procedures, instructions and practices rests with the Health & Safety Manager. It is the duty of the Managing Director and Section Head/Line Managers to ensure that the employees for whom they are responsible for are informed about safe work practices and procedures. Furthermore, the Managing Director and Senior Management are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Health and Safety arrangements.

The Health & Safety Manager is to co-ordinate the efforts of management in the implementation of the Safety Statement, provide competent advice as necessary and to undertake periodic inspections of the Office.

All employees have responsibilities under the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005*. These responsibilities are detailed in BRL Safety Statement. The success of the programme depends upon employee co-operation. A copy of the DCC Corporate Safety Statement and the BRL Safety Statement is issued to all employees.

**“growing trend for external
stakeholders to expect
transparency from organisations”**

KEY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

- To promote a safe, healthy and environmentally friendly workplace;
- To encourage a “nil - lost time injury workplace”;
- To promote Occupational Health & Safety & as an integral part of every managerial and supervisory position;
- To be aware and sensitive to the needs of all those people who live and work in close proximity to works areas;
- To promote and influence Occupational Health & Safety considerations in all planning and management of work activities;
- Communicate openly about our activities and report from time to time on safety, health and environmental issues to the Ballymun local community.

Indicators of Success

- Contractors recognise and incorporate OSHE as an integral part of their normal business operations and actively involve employees in OSHE issues;
- There is an increased OSHE knowledge and skills in workplaces and the community; and
- There is a continual and sustained reduction in the incidence and frequency of lost time injury and disease.
- There is a reducing trend and minimal community complaint incidences

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2005

1. School and community safety awareness campaign.
2. Rollout of major review of and introduction of new documentation reflecting industry leading policies and procedures.
3. Self-assessment questionnaire based on the UK **Considerate Construction Scheme** had been implemented which was given to all BRL contractors.
4. Evidence of a cultural change of attitude towards h & s by some contractors.
5. Considering the multitude of projects and the number of workers throughout the year, the severity and types of injuries sustained by the injured were of a minor nature and reflect considerably favourably by industry standards.
6. No reported lost times injuries sustained to BRL staff.
7. During 2005, the Health & Safety Manager introduced 17 new publications and 6 revised documents.
8. Company health & safety documentation, policies adopted by a number of Local Authorities.
9. Provide expert representation of the Construction Safety Specialist Committee of Local Authority Safety Advisors Group (LASAG) for submission to H & S Authority on proposed construction legislation changes.

NEW

Best Practice Model Documents

*BPM 1. Safe Work Method Statement Preparation Guidelines

*BPM 2. Joint Health & Safety Consultation Guidelines

*BPM 3. Planning & Management of Mobile Plant & Equipment

*BPM 4. Traffic Control and Management of Roadworks

BPM 5. Waste Management

BPM 6. Job Safety Analysis (JSA) Guidelines

BPM 7. Concrete Waste Management

*BPM 8. PROTECTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC - Safety at Construction Sites
Guidelines

Doc. 32: Health & Safety Management System Evaluation Questionnaire Form Medium
Size -Notifiable Works

- Doc. 34: Health & Safety Management System Evaluation Questionnaire Form For Non Notifiable Works
- Doc. 41: Instructions for completing Job Safety Analysis (JSA) Form
- Doc. 43: Topics Of The Month Checklist
- Doc. 44: Non Housing Project Health & Safety File/Operating Maintenance Manual
- Doc. 48: Health and Safety Team- Weekly Management Review
- Doc. 45: Management Undertaking/Declaration-Acknowledgement Form
- Doc. 46: Developed Safety & Health Plan Certificate
- Doc. 47: SAFETY FILE: Certificate of handing over

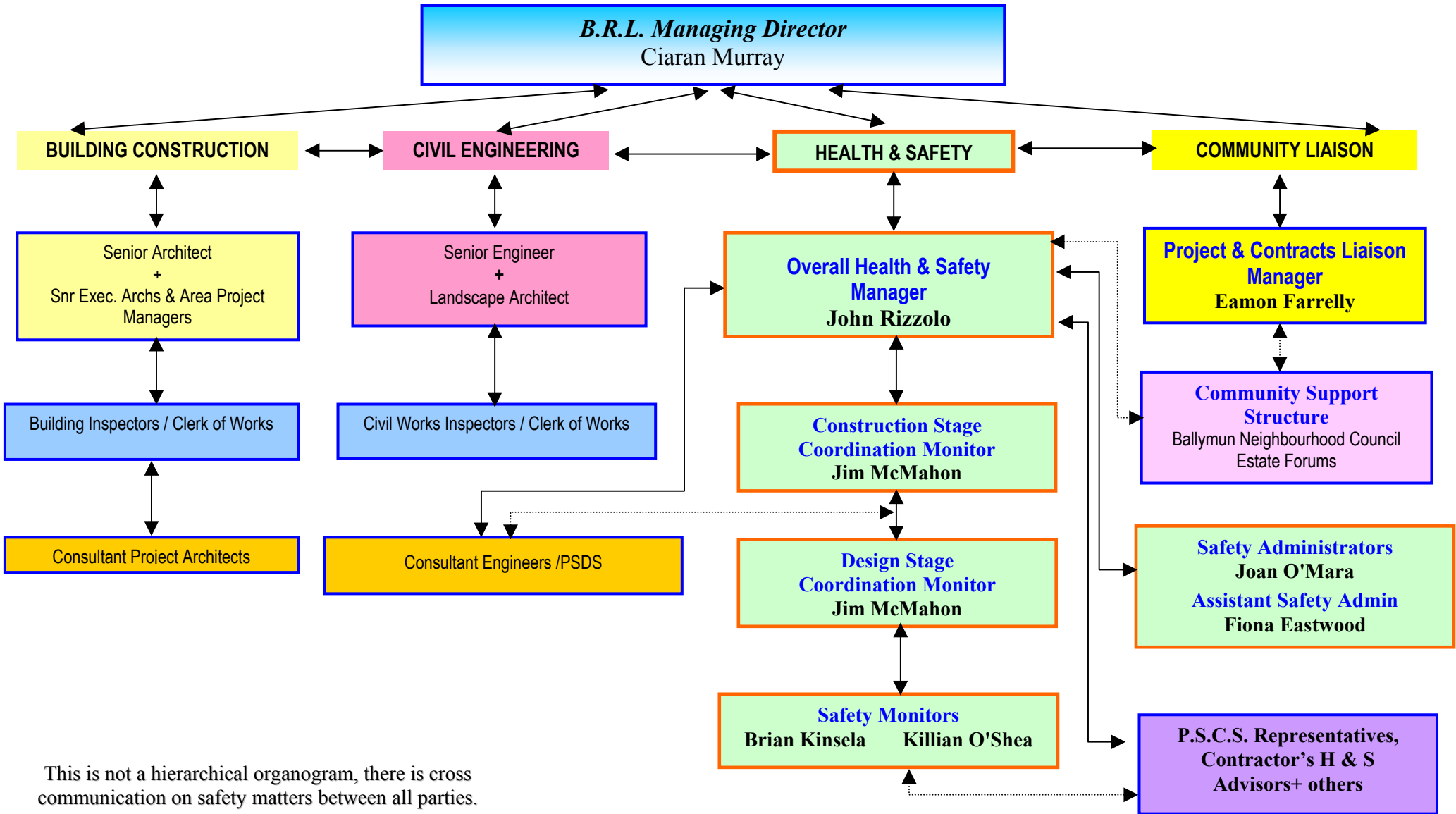
REVISED

- Doc. 1: BRL Project Safety, Health & Environmental Strategy
- Doc.2: Pre-Qualification Questionnaire for Designers and Project Supervisors for Design Stage
- Doc. 10: Tenderer Health & Safety Management System Evaluation Questionnaire Form Major Projects
- Doc. 24: Health & Safety File/Operating Maintenance Manual- Format & Contents
- Doc. 26: Tenant's Health & Safety Information/Operating, Maintenance Manual- Format & Contents
- Doc. 29: Contractor's Monthly Statistical Inspections, Accident/Incident Data Report Return Form

Note:

* Section removed from the Doc. 1: BRL Project Safety, Health & Environmental Strategy document and expanded into a more detailed separate BPM document

OVERALL HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE



This is not a hierarchical organogram, there is cross communication on safety matters between all parties.

2006 HEALTH SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS

Health and Safety Training Plan

The following training needs have been identified;

	Course/Control Measures	Who is to be trained?	No.
1	Induction Safety Training	All new Staff	
2	Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act, relevant Regs. and Safety Statement	All Staff	
3	Manual Handling & Refresher Courses	Selected High Medium-High Risk Staff	4
4	Office Safety including Emergency Procedures / Fire Escape	All Staff	
5	First Aid & Refresher Course	Volunteers, existing trained staff	5
6	FÁS Safe Pass & Refresher Course	Building Inspectors, Clerk of Works, Planning, Contracts Management and others as required	15
7	Fire Wardens & Refresher Course	Volunteers, existing trained staff	4
8	Accident Reporting and Investigation	Safety Representative	1
9	Role & function of Safety Representatives	Safety Representative	1
10	Working with VDUs	All Staff	
11	Risk Assessment	Safety Representative	1
12	Safety Inspection	Safety Representative	1
13	Chemical Safety	All Relevant Staff	
14	Biological Agents – Health Screening	All Relevant Staff	
15	Training in Personal Protective Equipment	All Relevant Staff	
16	Violence and Aggression (conflict resolution)	All Health & Safety staff, all Architects/Managers, Reception Staff, Building Inspectors, Clerk of Works, Planning, Contracts Management and others as required	7
17	Stress Management	All Staff	
18	Basic Fire Safety	All Staff	
19	Confined Space		5

When a new member of staff joins the company, the Health and Safety Manager will introduce and explain the BRL Safety Statements and local safety arrangements.

For the coming year, the H & S Manger has set the following targets for the **2006 reporting period**;

1. 20% reduction of lost time injuries from 2005 results
2. 30% reduction in HSA Prohibition Notices from 2005 results
3. 20% reduction in community complaints from 2005 results
4. 100% compliance with the recycling of Construction & Demolition Waste for all new projects commencing in 2006

NEW OSH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

1. As the work force becomes more diverse; the H& S Manger began to focus on contractors employing non English speaking personnel by raising their awareness of the special needs & issues of such employees and to provide their employees with understandable and relevant information on risks to their health and safety and on precautions to take to avoid those risks and rely less on verbal and written Safety & Health Programs in a way that takes account of any language difficulties.
2. Raise the awareness of the detrimental environmental impact of concrete washout pollution emanating from the construction operations.
3. Provide assistance in indentifying occurrences of water runoff from sites into drains is monitored and prevented from doing so.
4. Focused campaigns/inspection programmes were conducted each month based on specific topics or issues.
5. Raising the awareness and providing documentation for the BRL design team on future trends in the *Principles of design for deconstruction to facilitate reuse and recycling & Child Home Safety Construction Guidelines*.
6. Update the BRL web site to include additional BRL H & S documentation for both public access and contractor information by mid year 2006.
7. Increased focus on Office H & S issues and training.
8. Introduction of *Contractor of the Quarter Safety Award*.
9. Produce a quarterly BRL Health & Safety information newsletter.

HOW WE MANAGE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

Intent

We will develop, implement and maintain management systems for sustainable development that drive continual improvement and ensure we:

- do not compromise our safety values, and seek ways to promote and improve the health of our workforce and the community
- identify, assess and manage risks to employees, contractors, the environment and that of the community we work in

BRL operates an integrated and comprehensive health and safety management system, as defined in the Safety Statement Policy document.

The system aims to achieve best practice and provide a systematic approach to risk control, and for ensuring legal compliance throughout the organisation.

Proactive Objectives

Our proactive inspection and monitoring programme will focus on achieving improvements in health and safety management in the high-risk sectors of construction and public safety.

Proactive Risk Management Strategies

The purpose of our internal OSH management system is to ensure health and safety for staff and others who interact with our business by incorporating a proactive 'risk management' approach. OSH risks in our business are diverse yet our high-risk issues are effectively managed by our proactive and partnership approach with our appointed contractors. The risk profile for office staff sees our predominant focus on stress risk management, ergonomics in the office environment.

Reactive Objectives

To investigate complaints brought to our attention and promptly instigate a satisfactory resolution to the complainant.

Reactive Risk Management Strategies

Serious accidents and complaints will be prioritised, investigated and any necessary actions taken to achieve required improvements.

BRL H & S Unit uses a range of enforcement strategies such as monthly on site inspections & audits and compliance campaigns to encourage greater workplace health and safety compliance with legislative requirements the BRL Safety Health & Environmental Strategy and own company policies.

Evidence-Based Methodology

During 2005, greater use was made of data and other evidence to target prevention efforts and assist in highlighting major sources of workplace injury and public safety hazards. To achieve this, a data-driven methodology using the **Monthly Project Statistical Accident/Incident Data Report Return Form** was further developed as well as using claims data sources to identify projects or issues with high incidences of claims, injuries or damage. This data is then used to identify the risk reduction strategies.

CONSTRUCTION

Standards have been set in the context of three important stages in the contracting process:

- (i) Contract specification: ensuring that appropriate Occupational Health and Safety requirements are incorporated into specification documents.
- (ii) Tender evaluation: establishing a systematic approach to evaluating the Tender's health and safety capabilities and resources.
- (iii) Contract management: ensuring that contractor health and safety performance is monitored and supervised by the Project Supervisor *Construction Stage* for the duration of the contract.

In relation to the overall programme of building works in Ballymun, in connection with its role as the Client, the BRL Health and Safety Unit, have developed a very rigorous vetting process of assessing the competencies of each Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS)/Contractor. The BRL Health and Safety Unit have been given the task to continually monitor the safety performance of the activities of the project works.

A comprehensive, industry leading Project Safety, Health and Environmental Strategy document continues to be the principle document, detailing minimum standards that is required by all PSCS's/Contractors to work to, on the Ballymun Regeneration Scheme along with several accompanying Best Practice Model documents. In these documents, BRL have set minimum standards that it requires all PSCS's/Contractors to work to, on the Ballymun Regeneration Scheme. They outline the health and safety rules and procedures with which the PSCS/Contractor is required to comply with when undertaking work on BRL projects. It is given to all contractors as a means of raising the standards and promoting industry best practice and set uniform standards.

As well as dealing with the technical aspects, newsletters and other literature on health and safety are published from time-to-time and circulated to all the households and schools in the area to update the residents on health and safety matters.

In conjunction with other relevant organisations and agencies, such as the Fire Brigade, National Safety Council, BRL have had a series of safety awareness programmes to inform children and parents on the dangers of construction sites (including, not least the dangers posed by unauthorised entry by children) and other public safety issues.

Regular reviews are conducted on the level of construction traffic volumes resulting in the improvement of traffic management at development sites and additionally an enhanced level of co-ordination of the phasing of works on the various sites, with particular emphasis on the interface

with the public.

Community Wardens continue in their role of patrolling on foot in all of the Ballymun neighbourhoods, to deter children from entering or playing near building site entrances and to liaise with parents, community representatives, BRL, Dublin City Council and the Gardai.

“ensure weaknesses are identified/addressed and continual improvement achieved”

OVERALL HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER

The Health & Safety Manager is responsible for managing the team of safety professionals/specialists as outlined in the Health & Safety Management Team structure and will delegate tasks as appropriate to the various members of the team.

The Health & Safety Manager is an integral part of the Project Management Team and will, accordingly, influence the timing and phasing of the various works to be undertaken on an ongoing basis with particular close consultation with the Design Safety Co-ordinator together with the Construction Safety Co-ordinator.

The OSHMT are responsible for the safety monitoring of all construction projects undertaken on behalf of BRL, the co-ordination of the activities of all PSDSs and PSCSs and the proactive overall safety management from procurement through to completion of projects.

DESIGN STAGE CO-ORDINATOR (DSC)

As the Ballymun Regeneration Scheme is a multi-faceted scheme with many different aspects controlled by individual parties in the roles of ‘Project Supervisor Design Stage’ (PSDS), a level of co-ordination on behalf of the client, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. will take place in order to provide additional safeguards against breach of the PSD duties. The co-ordination meetings will discuss major issues affecting either individual work sites or issues resulting from the interaction between individual sites and interface with construction workers, residents, visitors and the general public and the cumulative impact of all other developments taking place throughout the scheme including construction traffic management issues.

CONSTRUCTION STAGE CO-ORDINATOR (CSC)

As the Ballymun Regeneration Scheme is a multi-faceted project with many different aspects controlled by individual parties in the roles of ‘Project Supervisor Construction Stage’ (PSCS) a level of co-ordinating on behalf of the client, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. will take place in order to provide

additional safeguards against breach of the PSCS duties. The co-ordination meetings will discuss major issues affecting either individual work sites or issues resulting from the interaction between individual sites and interface with construction workers, residents, visitors and the general public and the cumulative impact of all other developments taking place throughout the scheme including construction traffic management issues.

SAFETY MONITOR

The Safety Monitors monitor and report on each of the appointed PSCS and report to the DSC/CSC any perceived discrepancies regarding the fulfilling of the duties undertaken by the PSCS.

Conduct ongoing site works monitoring in an effort to help ascertain if the 'Principals of prevention' are in constant use during execution of site works.

SAFETY ADMINISTRATORS

The role is essentially an administration role responsible for the efficient running of the day-to-day needs of the Safety, Inspection, Community Wardens & Engineering team members and functions.

EMPLOYEES

All employees are expected to co-operate fully with the provisions made for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of themselves and fellow employees and non-company personnel. All employees are expected to discharge their work in a safe manner so as to avoid injury to themselves/other employees and avoid damage to equipment and property.

TRAINING AND STAFF INDUCTION

The significant risks faced by employees and the strategies in place to control the risks are based on risk assessments and consultation with staff conducted as required and appropriate training and information provided. For details of the type of training and programme see H & S Training Programme 2006.

The significant risks are faced by the Clerk of Works, Engineering and Architectural teams and the H & S personnel who work or visit the construction sites. Listed below are;

- Falls from height, use of faulty or incorrectly installed ladders and scaffolds,
- Contact with moving plant and machinery,
- Falling Objects

SIGNIFICANT OSH INCIDENTS

The death of an operative involved in the enabling works in preparation for the demolition of the McDermot Tower.

STATISTICAL INDICATORS

The following are the details of statistical indicators used to measure OSH performance;

BRL STAFF DATA

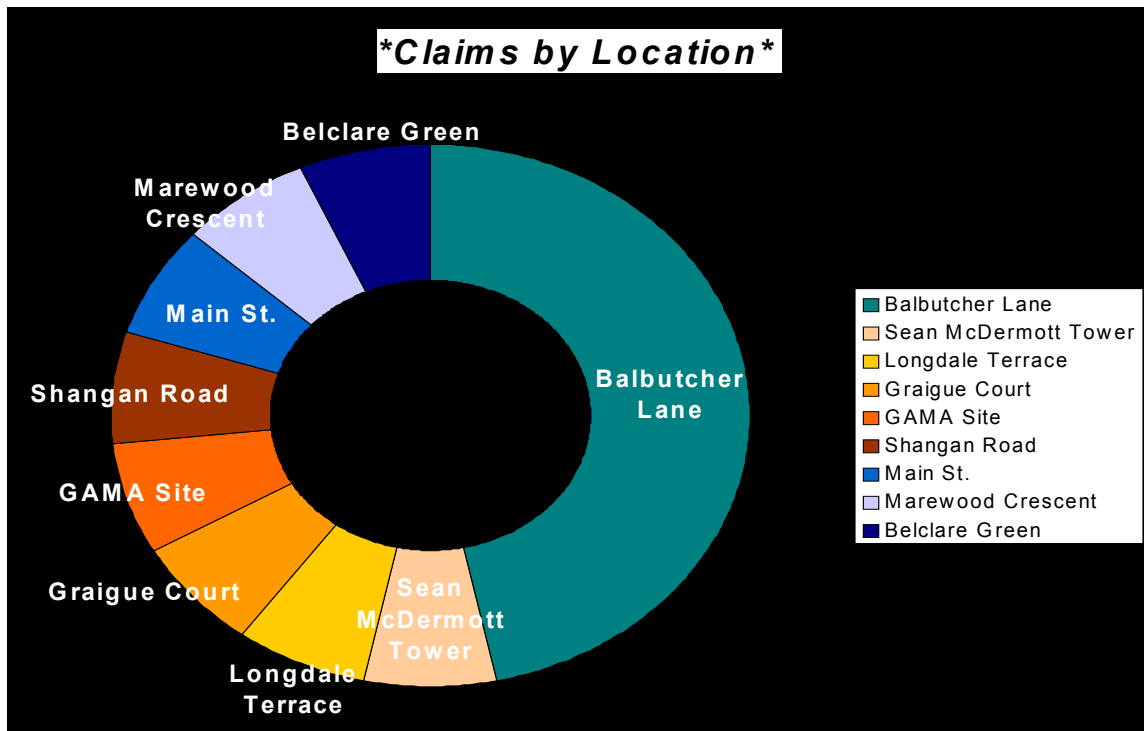
STATISTIC	NUMBER
The number of employee days lost (lost time injuries)	NIL
The number of workers' compensation claims; and	NIL
The number of reported workplace incidents; illnesses and dangerous occurrences	NIL

CONSTRUCTION SITES DATA

STATISTIC	NUMBER
Major Injury accidents (including Fatalities Notified directly to the enforcing authority by telephone and on Form of Notice of Accident IR 1 .	1
Reportable Accidents involving absence from work for more than three days and reported to enforcing authority on Form of Notice of Accident IR 1 (Excluding those above)	14
Other Accidents requiring first aid treatment only or where absence from work did not exceed three days.	32
Accidents & injuries, property damage to third parties ie: members of the public etc.	5
Dangerous occurrences reported to the enforcing authority on Form of Notice of Dangerous Occurrence IR 3 .	NIL
HSA Advice Note	6
HSA Improvement Notice	NIL
HSA Prohibition Notice	3

CLAIMS AGAINST DATA

STATISTIC	NUMBER
BRL Appointed Contractor	8
BRL	1
Utility	1
BRL Appointed Architect	1
DCC	4



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Managing and Minimising Environmental Impact

The housebuilding sector is known to be ranked as having high environmental impact. BRL fully accepts its social and ethical responsibility to eliminate wherever possible and thereafter manage, minimise and control environmental risks and effects.

Environmental objectives of BRL are to minimise any adverse effect of the Scheme works on the work site and the surrounding areas. Contractors must pay particular attention during construction activities to the emission of pollutants, noise, dirt and dust and emissions from site of substances dangerous to the environment and waste management taking the most stringent precautions to ensure that the overall environmental impact is minimised and particularly to the surrounding residents.

Environmental Pollution

It is understood there is risk of environmental pollution arising from our operational activities:
For example;

- To Air – dust, smoke, noise, carbon dioxide
- To Watercourses - diesel fuel, mud, silt, concrete washout
- To Land - diesel fuel, existing contamination

BRL has developed and continues to improve robust control measures to remove or mitigate these risks.

The aim of this section is to illustrate our strategy with regards to waste management and recycling of material and our commitment to achieving these targets.

Key to this strategy are the three principles underlying the strategy for sustainable waste management:

- Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)
- the waste hierarchy
- the proximity principle

Best Practicable Environmental Option

BPEO ensures that decisions are made through a systematic and consultative process, emphasising the protection and conservation of the environment. The process ensures the least damage to the environment as a whole, at acceptable cost, both in the long and short term.

Waste Hierarchy

Under the waste hierarchy, the most effective environmental solution is to reduce the generation of waste in the first place. Where further reduction is not practicable, re-use of products and materials should be attempted. Failing that, value should be recovered from the waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery. Only when these alternatives have been explored should the disposal option be pursued.

Proximity Principle

The proximity principle suggests that waste should generally be disposed of as near to its place of production as possible; recognising the impacts associated with transportation, and promoting self sufficiency in the location of waste management facilities during the planning process.

Consulting arrangements: information on how employees are consulted, the frequency of consultation etc was accepted. Any reference to safety representatives and trade unions in a H&S context was also awarded a point.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder Engagement and Community Involvement

BRL Health & Safety Manager and in collaboration with the demolition contractor, Controlled Demolition Group's Health & Safety Manager, provided safety awareness training to several schools showing the dangers of children entering playing on building sites by the use of video demonstrations of demolition implosions as part of the preparation of the McDermot Tower implosion were seen as a successful event by the school teachers and enjoyed by the pupils.

Also all schools in Ballymun were given information on real examples from newspaper clippings of children being injured or killed playing on building sites in the UK.

On the 22nd November a multitude of leaflets were offered to residents and visitors during the BRL organised **Open Day** information session. Examples of such leaflets were fire safety at home, child safety in cars DVD, plus a guide to selecting and fitting child restraints in cars, pedestrian road safety, a safety guide for motorcycle riders and other leaflets.

Parents were also given copies of the above leaflets by the Community Wardens at school entrances to capture those who could not attend the Open Day.

COMMUNITY WARDENS

Community wardens continue in their role of patrolling on foot in all of the Ballymun neighbourhoods, to deter children from entering or playing near building site entrances and to liaise with parents, community representatives, BRL, Dublin City Council and the Gardai.

A major change to the Community Warden program is the retention of two full time CW patrolling the neighbourhoods all year round.

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Since 2000, BRL H & S Manager developed and refined over the intervening years, the procedure for dealing with community complaints of the construction activities. The procedure is as follows;

Upon receiving their H & S complaint, BRL Health & Safety Unit take the following actions:

1. Record details and the nature of the complaint on the *Community/Public Complaint Report Form*.
2. Investigate promptly to determine the risk and identify who is responsible.
3. Agree a solution to the problem with the appropriate parties.
4. Monitor the issue to ensure it is followed through.
5. Inform the complainant of what is being done to resolve the issue.
6. Finally, call back to confirm that the issue has been dealt with to their satisfaction.

The staff member taking the complaint will try to resolve the problem as soon as possible. The matter may be referred to another more appropriate person/party to attempt a resolution.

If they remain dissatisfied with the action taken they can contact the BRL Health & Safety Manager for further consideration in resolving the issue.

OFFICE SAFETY

During the year there were 9 fully trained First Aiders, 9 received Fire Warden, 10 received Personal Safety at Work training, 14 Fás Safe Pass and 4 manual Handling training. As well as a new Staff Induction training package was developed for all new staff joining BRL.

This year the appointed staff *Safety Representative* and the Health & Safety Manager produced a staff Health & Safety newsletter which is anticipated to be distributed quarterly from 2006.

OFFICE EMERGENCY DRILLS

During the year there were two fire drills performed in conjunction with the Facilities Management Company LGM, who have overall charge of emergency planning. As a result of these drills, the emergency evacuation procedures have been developed and implemented, although further development of the procedures will be needed.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

The BRL Health & Safety Management team seeks to facilitate a co-operative approach between the PSCS/contractor and BRL on the construction health & safety issues. This approach requires a commitment by the contractor to address issues of safety performance in a positive manner and to co-operate with the BRL Health & Safety Management Team.

The BRL Health and Safety Management Team had two changes to the Health & Safety Monitor role and an additional administration assistant was employed in providing support to the Safety Administrator. There are two full time Health and Safety Monitors who patrol all of the Ballymun neighbourhoods primarily focusing on public safety issues with onsite inspections carried out monthly for each BRL project site.

The BRL Health & Safety team continue to meet with the HSA Inspectors each quarter. There were no significant issues reported by the HSA Inspectors relating to the BRL construction sites.

Overall, there was little serious incidents or injuries with the BRL contractors of which only, a relatively small number resulted in lost time injuries.

Despite an improvement in our safety efforts, we are saddened to report of a fatal incident had occurred in March as part of the preparation works for the controlled implosion of McDermot Tower.

As a key party to the improvement of workplace health and safety we have accepted responsibility for the development and implementation of construction industry best practices.

The strategy will focus our efforts in working together to implement interventions to dramatically improve workplace health and safety performance and to prevent work-related death, injury and disease.

BRL are committed to an “all accidents are preventable” philosophy and asks for the co-operation of all in creating a lasting culture of safety.

Another change in the strategy of dealing with the non BRL developments was introduced this year to provide a more rigorous resolution process in having public safety issues dealt with in a timely and satisfactory manner. The strategy involves using the weekly monitoring reports to raise issues of concern with these private development sites if site management do not respond in an appropriate way or in a timely manner the report is issued to the HSA to deal with.

The production of BRL best practice Health & Safety documentation and the inspection and the enforcement of the compliance of the BRL policies are a key tool in achieving our vision of Creating a safer and healthier working environment for our people and our community.