

Press Release

3 December 2010

Berlin time a risk to builders says NFB

A private members bill, if voted in today (Friday 3 December 2010) by MPs, could see the country move away from using Greenwich Mean Time and align itself with Berlin and other European cities.

Should the bill become law, the clocks would go forward an hour throughout the year - setting them to GMT +1 in winter and GMT +2 in summer as opposed to the current regime of setting them to GMT in winter and British Summer Time (GMT +1) from spring to autumn. The result would mean longer, darker mornings.

Julia Evans, Chief Executive of the National Federation of Builders (NFB) warned: 'In the construction industry work starts early in the morning. Moving the clocks forward would mean work starting in the dark therefore potentially causing more accidents in the workplace and posing potentially serious hazards for builders and the also the public.

'A report in September 2009 showed that after the March time change there was a 5.7% increase in accidents on construction sites.

'Construction, unlike other sectors, depends heavily on manual labour and you need people to be alert while working in order to avoid accidents. The best way to achieve this is to make sure they have the best possible natural light during their working hours: this would not be the case if the clocks are moved forward.'

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