

Learning Bulletin – Member of Public - forearm laceration by fenced panel

What Happened?

A member of the public passed what appeared to be a solid and secure fenced site, it's then alleged that the frayed fence panel (second photo) cut into his forearm as he walked passed. This resulted in 3 stitches at a local hospital as the detached strand of the fencing appears to have torn his clothing and cut his forearm.



Why did it really happen?

Not only do we design our fencing in line with temporary works, we also carry out regular inspections (daily/weekly). During the daily/weekly inspections the damage was either not seen or underestimated as a potential hazard and left as seen in the photo, allowing someone passing to snag their clothing/arm onto the fence and cutting their forearm. This fence panel was either installed damaged or at an unknown point in time was damaged and not reported.

What can I do differently?

- All plant and equipment **MUST** be inspected thoroughly prior to installing them and discard and damaged/broken items that have the potential to cause harm
- Ensure any identified defective barriers or fencing are removed from site, replaced and secured as per manufactures instructions and recorded in the schedule of Temporary Works
- **Always** follow the requirements set out in Essential Standard no. 20 – Management of Temporary Works