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Between the member of the public being assaulted in AHH, and the intoxicated member of the public being escorted from HS, I am not convinced the organisation is taking colleague safety seriously by announcing this back to the office initiative so soon after both incidents.

It's no more valid than saying we used to send children up chimneys. Regression towards prior conditions is not a neutral action, or have we all collectively decided to memory hole the phrase "new normal"?

I don't think there is a comparison between sending a child up a chimney and being asked to work in an office as per our contract of employment, technically if required we could work in an office 5 days a week compared to 2!

The simple fact of the matter is that for many people there is zero benefit to working in an office, only losses. This is why these decisions should have been devolved to be made on a team-by-team basis instead of the one-size-fits all approach management has chosen, which results in a lot of people coming into the office to sit by themselves and do exactly what they'd be doing at home, but with the added distraction of people talking all around them.

I keep seeing people raising this argument of 'we used to work in the office five days a week' and with all due respect we also used to send kids down the mines, that didn't make it a good idea. Times change and workplaces evolve; we now have the infrastructure to facilitate fully remote work that did not exist pre-Covid, so in my opinion we should not be clinging to antiquated and ineffective ways of working purely out of some bizarre adherence to tradition.