

THE COUNCIL FOR
WORK & HEALTH



August 2026 Newsletter



A message from our Chair, Kevin Bampton

The new Prime Minister has clearly signalled his commitment to prevention as a better investment than investing in fixing failure. Manchester has been a key partner with the Keep Britain Working initiative, which signals a likely approach to how he may view the challenge of getting people into work and keeping people in work. Re-industrialisation seems also to be part of the plan. One of the “wrong directions” from the 1980s Andy Burnham may wish to be considering was the abandonment of the Government’s full commitment to workplace health.

As more control of public utilities becomes a feature of the new economic model, Government may also need to be aware of its duties to keep Britain healthy, as well as working. At a recent SOM podcast, I was involved in discussing the challenges for Occupational Health of the present and the future. We do need to do our utmost to promote consistent and proportionate standards of professional practice, so that market forces do not undermine the quality of care for workers.

We should never have a situation where another OH provider is issued with an HSE notice, since it is professionally intolerable. We need to ensure that we agree on consistent approaches are adopted which adapt to vulnerabilities among the workforce, but are proportionate and affordable for all. We should not have a one size fits all approach. We need to celebrate every specialism in occupational health, but work in concert to ensure seamless, accessible and appropriate support for all workplaces.

While innovation, growth and proportionate regulation should be guiding Government in workplace health, no worker should be subjected to a health lottery, dependent on the size and motivation of their employer. A safe and healthy working environment is a right in the United Kingdom and employers who cannot afford to make a profit, while keeping their workforce healthy should not be in business.

Professor Kevin Bampton

Chair, Council for Work and Health



**BACP / CWH Round table
meeting:**

**Core Principles for supporting
Mental Health at Work**

29 July 2026

CWH hosted a meeting of member organisations, focused on mental health and the workplace. Drawing from representation from

professional and expert bodies, the meeting aimed to further develop a consensus statement of guidance and expectations to support the work of non-clinical advisers when supporting workers where mental health is a consideration.

The round table also addressed a consensus position on how the Council should advocate for policy movement in support of mental health and our collective action and priority work to address priority needs in relation to professional guidance and standards. The meeting will continue to seek to engage expert, professional and stakeholder bodies to ensure a cohesive response from the Council.

We anticipate forthcoming guidance for non-clinical workers, as well as a clear policy brief. Organisations represented on the day were:

BOHS, BACP, BPS, Acas, NHS, SOM, Able Futures, iOH, and HSE

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HEATWAVE GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS:

CWH:

Following an open meeting on 6 July 2026, the following guidance was prepared: [Keeping Healthcare Workers safe During Heatwaves: Guidance, Policy Template and Risk Assessment](#)

IOSH:

IOSH produced a white paper last year - [The heat is on | IOSH](#) – which also includes control measures aligned to the hierarchy of control.

SOM:

SOM heat wave guidance - see <https://www.som.org.uk/som-heat-wave-guidance>

HSE:

Working in high temperatures

Employers must ensure workers are protected during hot weather.

There's no law for maximum working temperature, or when it's too hot to work, because every workplace is different.

No meaningful upper limit can be imposed as many indoor workplaces have high temperatures that are not seasonal but created by work activity, for example in bakeries or foundries.

HSE's website has [guidance on temperature in the workplace](#)

News from Council Members



British Occupational Hygiene Society Update

Legionella Conference 2026: 50 years on – why is Legionella still a problem?

Nearly 50 years after the first recognised outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, the risks remain very real. While our understanding of Legionella has advanced significantly, outbreaks continue to occur and cases are not declining, highlighting the need for better design, management and oversight of water systems. To mark this milestone and address the ongoing challenges, BOHS will host its [**Legionella Conference 2026 on 24 November in Manchester**](#), bringing together regulators, engineers, duty holders, legal experts and industry leaders to explore why preventable failures persist and what organisations can do to improve water safety management.

Supporting HSE's engineered stone campaign

BOHS is proud to have collaborated with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on its latest engineered stone campaign, providing supporting footage for a new awareness video promoting safe working practices and helping protect workers from exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The campaign reinforces the importance of effective control measures, including eliminating dry cutting, using water suppression, suitable respiratory protective equipment and health surveillance, to prevent silicosis and other serious occupational lung diseases.

Watch the [**campaign video**](#) and find out more about [**HSE's engineered stone campaign**](#) to access practical guidance and resources for employers and workers.

New BOHS guidance highlights the science behind exposure assessment

BOHS has published [**Introductory Guide 2: Workplace Air Monitoring Calculations for Exposures and Results**](#), helping explain why workplace exposure assessment is about far more than simply taking measurements. Understanding whether exposure to a hazardous substance is likely to cause immediate or long-term ill health requires accurate calculations, expert interpretation and knowledge of occupational exposure limits. The new guide highlights the vital role

occupational hygienists play in measuring, interpreting and assessing workplace exposures, ensuring risks are properly understood and controlled.



HSE Updates

HSE campaign - engineered stone and lung disease - HSE has launched a new campaign for people who work with [engineered stone](#). Engineered stone is widely used in kitchen worktops and can contain as much as 90% respirable crystalline silica (RCS). The cutting, grinding and polishing of engineered stone can generate high levels of fine dust containing RCS. If the dust is inhaled, it can cause devastating lung diseases including silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer. Although irreversible, these diseases are preventable with the right controls. HSE have launched new guidance that sets out what these controls are and are conducting inspections of businesses to make sure they're in place. [The guidance includes information on:](#) On tool water suppression; Mist control; RPE and Health surveillance. HSE have also published a new [Campaign Toolkit](#) which contains background information and useful content for the campaign.

iOH News

Our first professional practice supervision session was held in July with very positive feedback. We aim to collate themes and outcomes from these sessions to identify where OH and wellbeing clinicians are identifying challenges

We've had a successful webinar with Sarah Shaw who talked about lived experience of chronic pain and work. Sarah is an OT working in OH.

Our CPD page for members on musculoskeletal health and ergonomics has been updated.

Our resource pages on OH educational providers, OH organisations relating to Occupational Health and list of OH publications, have all been updated.

We are taking a break from webinars in August but will have our September line up in place soon.

And finally, we have published 3 very interesting [blogs](#);

- Sick before old: The health span gap nobody is talking about by Dr Robin Frackrell
- OH as the whole bake by Dr. Robert Olubi
- iOH membership platform: A platform I actually use by Sam Langford

Our next OH Today will be published at the end of August with an AI in OH special edition at the end of September.



IOSH update

New IOSH white paper shines a light on modern slavery risks in global supply chains

In July, IOSH published the latest in its series of white papers: 'Hidden in plain sight – confronting modern slavery in today's economy'.

Featuring a foreword by Eleanor Lyons, UK Independent Anti Slavery Commissioner, the paper explores the human cost of modern slavery and labour exploitation hidden within global supply chains.

An estimated 7,500 people still die every day due to unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. The paper highlights the importance of understanding the complex network of suppliers, manufacturers and workers behind the products and services we use. By improving supply chain visibility, organisations can better identify risks, take meaningful action and protect vulnerable workers.

Read more about the campaign and download a copy of the white paper [here](#).

Keep Britain Working: IOSH helping shape the future of workplace health

IOSH continues to monitor developments arising from the Vanguard phase of the *Keep Britain Working* Review and has recently joined the British Standards Institution (BSI) committee responsible for drafting the new workplace health standard.

Read more [here](#).

IOSH calls on new Prime Minister to put prevention at the heart of government policy

On his first day in office, IOSH wrote to Prime Minister Andy Burnham to highlight the vital role that worker safety, health and wellbeing play in creating a more sustainable, productive and resilient economy. The letter set out the significant opportunity that the new government has to improve lives by placing prevention at the core of government policy.

Read about the further calls to action made in the letter [here](#).

Taking the OSH message to the global stage

IOSH has continued to champion safer and healthier working environments internationally through a written statement submitted to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. With growing evidence suggesting the world is off track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, IOSH is calling for greater recognition of occupational safety and health as a critical enabler of sustainable development. Through its statement, IOSH urged governments and international institutions to place workplace safety and health at the centre of efforts to deliver economic growth, social progress and sustainable development.



National School of Occupational Health (NSOH)

July has been another productive month for the National School of Occupational Health (NSOH), with several important developments

across education, professional collaboration, and workforce development.

Occupational Health Nursing Task and Finish Group Launched

July saw the inaugural meeting of the Occupational Health Nursing Task and Finish Group, led by Jamie Waterall, Deputy Chief Public Health Nurse. The group is focusing on occupational health nursing capability, capacity, and the future workforce. Special thanks go to Amanda Hinkley (UKHSA and FOHN) for inspiring the creation of this important initiative. The group brings together senior nursing leaders from the police, Ministry of Defence, rail sector, and NSOH.

Strengthening Relationships with the NMC

Positive progress has been made in developing stronger links with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), creating opportunities for future collaboration and engagement, regular meetings have been set up.

Education Network Continues to Grow

The Occupational Health Education Network continues to flourish, with strong engagement across the sector. We were pleased to welcome a new provider of education for occupational health nurses and technicians, offering programmes certified by Qualifications Scotland.

Occupational Health Mentor Scheme Expansion

The Occupational Health Mentor Scheme, delivered in partnership with the Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM), continues to go from strength to strength. Plans are now being explored to broaden the scheme's reach and provide support for clinicians throughout their careers.

Raising the Profile of Occupational Health Nursing

Interviews have taken place with Nursing Times to highlight the vital contribution of occupational health nursing and the importance of undergraduate placements. We look forward to sharing the resulting publications in due course.

Advancing Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Collaborative work with SOM and Allied Health Professional networks continues, reinforcing Occupational Health as a truly multidisciplinary specialty. Early work has commenced to map alternative professional routes into Occupational Health practice.

Contributing to the College of Work and Health

NSOH continues to play an active role in the development of the College of Work and Health, with representation through chairing the Sector Provision Committee. This work provides an exciting opportunity to help shape the future direction of occupational health education and workforce development.

These initiatives demonstrate the growing momentum across the occupational health community and the continued commitment to developing a skilled, sustainable, and multidisciplinary workforce for the future.



RoSPA update:

RoSPA is deeply involved in the UK Drowning Prevention Strategies by hosting and providing the secretariat for the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF), which just published the **UK Drowning Prevention Strategies**

On 25 July, to mark World Drowning Prevention Day, the UK published its new UK Drowning Prevention Strategy. The strategy sets out a shared vision and priorities for reducing drowning across the UK.

Alongside the UK-wide strategy, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have each published their own national strategies, enabling every nation to address its unique challenges and priorities while contributing to the common vision: "Towards zero drownings: building a future where everyone in the UK can be safe in, on and around the water."

Each strategy includes specific aims and objectives, recognising that every sector, organisation and community has a role to play in preventing drowning. While tailored to the unique needs and priorities of each nation, the strategies promote a coordinated approach to improving water safety, reducing risk, and working together towards the shared vision of zero drownings across the UK.

Together, these strategies provide a coordinated framework for preventing drowning and saving lives across the UK. You can view the strategies here:

- [UK](#)
- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

RoSPA operates and delivers ScORSA (the Scottish Occupational Road Safety Alliance) program (funded by Transport Scotland). RoSPA uses ScORSA to develop and distribute management strategies for occupational road risk and help employers reduce driving-related workplace incidents. It's free to join if members are interested in road risk and safety. Free resources include:

- Best practice guide to managing occupational road risk (MORR)
- Two e-learning courses on MORR
- Sector specific toolkits for MORR on construction, healthcare, local authority and gig economy.
- Guide for Inclusive Safety Communication in Occupational Road Safety
- Gap analysis tool

RoSPA launched the report on its Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Skills Commission on 30th June. Based on the in-person roundtable discussions held earlier this year, the Commission's comprehensive report provides insights to support industry, influence Government policy, and help future-proof the OSH workforce for evolving risks and ways of working. The report contains practical recommendations for Government, Skills England, organisational leaders and OSH professionals aiming to address the growing skills shortages affecting safety outcomes, workforce resilience, and productivity across the UK.

The OSH Skills Commission marks the beginning of a much wider conversation; one that spans education, industry, regulation and national workforce planning. RoSPA's ambition is to help shape policies that recognise OSH skills as essential to productivity, national wellbeing and economic resilience. Over the coming months, the Commission will gather evidence, speak with experts across sectors, and share emerging insights. Its final report will offer a set of strategic, practical recommendations that government, educators and employers can act on. Because one thing is clear: without a strong, skilled and adaptable OSH workforce, the UK cannot build the safe, prosperous future it aspires to.

To read the report visit: [OSH Skills Commission webpage](#)



SOM update

Occupational Health Awareness Week (OHAW)

Monday 21st - Sunday 27th September 2026

Overall aims of OHAW:

Increase awareness of what occupational health (OH) is and the value it provides to workplace health.

Encourage health professionals to consider OH as a career, to future-proof the profession of OH.

Initiated by SOM in 2021 it is for all stakeholders to use as they wish.

2026 Theme: Use occupational health early with Tag lines:

Occupational health - Supporting health at work and Occupational health - Experts in health at work

Do use the logo as above.

Website: Landing page at <https://www.som.org.uk/ohaw>, which will have communications materials and assets, such as online posters, for all to use and share. The SOM website will also host OHAW blogs and news.

Social media hashtags: #OHAW2026 #OccupationalHealthAwareness. Social media posts for *LinkedIn, Instagram* and *Facebook* will be created to use/share.

Stats: OHAW will use research about the [value of OH](#) and how it protects and supports workplace health – providing a tailored, preventive approach that supports people's health at work, advises on adjustments and support for all workers, e.g.

40.1m estimated working days lost due to work-related ill health and non-fatal workplace injuries in 2024/25 (LFS).

2.8m people are economically inactive due to long-term sickness (Parliament).

Mental health at work, ~£51bn/year cost to employers (Deloitte).

- **Parliamentary question mentions SOM**
- Question Cameron Thomas; Independent; Tewkesbury; Commons
"To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps

his Department is taking to help improve mental health and wellbeing support in the media production industry”.

- Answer: Sir Stephen Timms Labour East Ham Commons
Answered on 13 July 2026: The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and related regulations require employers and the self-employed to protect the health, safety and welfare of workers. Under Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, employers must carry out suitable and sufficient risk assessments, including risks from work-related stress, and share significant findings with those affected...HSE also provides guidance specific to the film and television industry, describing the various roles and responsibilities of those within the production process (INDG360 - Health and safety in audio-visual production. Your legal duties) and guidance and information sheets for specific production activities and risks, e.g. stunts, use of firearms and filming while using vehicles. HSE works with the Film and TV Charity, the SOM Special Interest Group for occupational health in Film and TV and industry trade unions to raise awareness of, and control, work-related stress and psychosocial hazards within the sector. <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-07-02/15665>
- **Open Letter to Health and Safety Executive- reporting of work-related suicides.** <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/bmj-2026-100139?ijkey=96Q3FuOgMcVWUwM&keytype=ref>
- **BMJ article on young people and occupational health** - see <https://www.bmj.com/content/394/bmj-2026-100145>



VRA: Why collaboration matters: Working together to shape the future of VR

To read the latest VRA Blog - [click here](#)

Dates for your diary



5 August 2026

ACPOHE Webinar: 1100-1200

Date: 05th August 2026

Time: 11.00am - 12.00pm

Title: New Discoveries in the Causes of Fibromyalgia-type Chronic Pain

Location: Microsoft Teams

Speaker: Dr Guy Bewick

More details and registration: [ACPOHE Webinar: New Discoveries in the Causes of Fibromyalgia-type Chronic Pain | Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics](#)



12 August 2026

**Work-related stress and how to manage it.
2.30-3.30pm**

HSE and our publishing partner TSO are hosting a free webinar to help workplaces successfully manage work-related stress.

We'll cover the resources and tools available, including:

stress management standards

stress indicator tool

The webinar will conclude with a live audience Q and A.

Register for our webinar: [Work-related stress and how to manage it.](#)



Health at Work Network

10 September 2026

NHS Health at Work Network, Annual Conference

The NHS Health at Work Network's popular annual Conference is taking place on 10 September at the Chesford Grange in Warwickshire. With a range of expert guest speakers, we will be joined by 230+ OH professionals and will be covering innovative topics including AI in OH, supporting staff with cancer, and clinical negligence. For further information, and to make a booking, please contact:

admin@nhshealthatwork.co.uk

Flyer available [here](#)



23 September 2026

NEBOSH HSE Certificate in managing stress at work

Work-related stress training courses from HSE

HSE's training is delivered by experts to help organisations comply with the law and keep workforces healthy and safe.

Our stress-themed courses are designed to increase delegates' confidence and competence in managing stress at work. Upcoming dates include:

[NEBOSH HSE certificate in managing stress at work](#)

23 September 2026, HSE Science and Research Centre, Buxton

7 to 8 October 2026, live online

[Work-related stress: Developing manager capability](#)

9 February 2027, HSE Science and Research Centre, Buxton



19 October 2026

UK and Ireland occupational and environmental epidemiology: 19th annual meeting

Venue: HSE Science and Research Centre, Buxton

Price: £95 per person

[Register now](#)

We are delighted to invite you to the 19th Annual UK and Ireland Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Meeting. This year's edition is hosted by the Health and Safety Executive on Monday 19 October 2026.

This meeting is planned as an in-person event at the HSE Science and Research Centre in Buxton. All presentations will be delivered in person.



24 November 2026

BOHS Legionella Conference (in person)

Programme: Coming soon!

Venue: The Studio, Manchester

Registration fees: BOHS member £144 / Non-member £180

Legionnaires' disease is foreseeable and preventable, but disease case numbers are not going down. Since the first Legionnaires' disease outbreak nearly 50 years ago we have learned a great deal about the organism and disease, but in some water systems, Legionella risks may still be poorly managed. This Conference will explore some of the

complexities of managing water systems and consider how Legionella control can be designed into the life cycle of water systems.



27 November 2026

RCN and SOM Occupational Health Nursing Conference 2026

Advancing Occupational Health Practice

Friday 27 November 2026

RCN HQ London or online via Zoom Events

CPD 7 hours

www.rcn.org.uk/OH26

Following the conference, delegates will be able to:

- Apply inclusive occupational health practices
Identify and apply at least three evidence based approaches to supporting neurodivergent employees, menopause related needs, and other long term health conditions through appropriate reasonable adjustments within their own workplace or caseload.
- Assess and respond to evolving workplace health risks
Critically assess emerging and complex occupational health issues including; medicinal cannabis use, men's health risks, and safeguarding concerns and outline clear occupational health

interventions or referral pathways for at least two real world workplace scenarios.

- Integrate innovation and strategic thinking into OH nursing practice
- Demonstrate an understanding of how AI, social prescribing, and cross sector collaboration can be ethically and safely integrated into occupational health nursing practice, identifying at least one practical change they will implement within three months of the conference.



14-19 February 2027

ICOH 2027 – Call for Abstracts

Mumbai, India | 14th–19th February 2027 The International Scientific Advisory Committee, the Trustee Committee and the National Scientific Committee of ICOH 2027 invites researchers, professionals, practitioners, and students to actively contribute to the scientific program by submitting abstracts for consideration as oral or poster presentations in the Free Paper Sessions. <https://www.icoh2027.in/call->

[for-abstracts.html](#). For more information please contact: Email: SC@icoh2027.in

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