

## **IOSH issues new call for research proposals**

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) has launched its 2024–2025 call for research proposals.

IOSH is inviting proposals for timely and original research that influences policy and practice in the field of occupational safety, health, and wellbeing.

There are four different topic areas included in the call.

### **Firefighters' exposure to toxic chemicals: barriers and facilitators to adopting decontamination practices**

With firefighters often exposed to various toxic agents through doing their duties, and research highlighting potential gaps in the cleaning and decontamination of their kit and personal protective equipment, IOSH is looking to understand more about this.

It is seeking research which explores and compares the barriers and facilitators to the implementation of effective decontamination protocols and practices for firefighters in the United Kingdom. As part of this, it would welcome comparisons with developed economies such as Canada, USA, and Sweden.

### **Occupational health training for occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals: context, challenges, and opportunities**

Despite OSH professionals playing a key role in supporting the health and work ability of employees, often their role is limited to a focus on safety matters. This part of the call is seeking to explore the aspects of existing occupational health training for OSH professionals in countries with sophisticated and mature regulatory frameworks.

This research should support the evaluation of a number of areas, including the knowledge of the health impacts of occupational hazards, the competencies required to prevent work-related diseases and ill health, and the role, type, and content of education and training programmes designed to equip OSH practitioners with the skills and knowledge to prevent and address occupational disease.

### **Occupational safety and health and climate change – the impact of psychosocial factors in the agricultural sector**

Climate change is increasingly becoming a factor that OSH professionals have to consider in their work. As well as the clear safety factors that it causes, there are many psychosocial risks that it brings about.

This is why IOSH has included this in its list of research topics. There are two aspects to this call:

- To explore the impact of climate change on the mental health of agricultural workers in Africa and/or Asia and identify ways that these impacts can be mitigated to support good practice
- To evaluate the work-related psychosocial impact of climate change on agricultural workers, contrasting those in low- and medium-income countries (i.e. those in Africa and/or Asia) with those in high-income countries such as in Europe

### **The robustness of national OSH statistics in the United Kingdom**

National statistics provide key insights into many different parts of a country's economy and society. Among them, OSH statistics are crucial when it comes to understanding trends in this area. It is crucial, therefore, that the data provided is accurate and a true reflection of the situation.

IOSH is looking for research that explores three aspects of the UK's OSH reporting structures and statistics. These are:

- The robustness and reliability of current reporting structures, available data sources, data collection mechanisms, and the categorisation for work-related disease, injury, and ill-health to reflect the modern workplace
- Identification of the strengths and weaknesses within the current recognised data sources at both national and local levels
- An analysis of national policy impacts on the reliability of national OSH statistics and OSH enforcement

### **The IOSH research team**

IOSH commissions a range of projects to establish evidence for health and safety policies and practice on many OSH topics. It often focuses on research that leads to the development of practical resources for the workplace, such as guidance, tools, and case studies.

The IOSH research team includes subject-matter experts involved in:

- Research monitoring and reporting
- Attending conferences and events
- Advising on the research activities of others

The Institution's research is overseen by a panel of IOSH-appointed experts and OSH professionals who provide specialist research-related advice to uphold our rigorous process for the commissioning of research.

### **Find out more**

The IOSH Research call involves a one-stage application process with a deadline of 11:59 GMT on Monday 13 January 2025. For more detailed information on this call, including accessing the application form, visit [iosh.com/research24](https://iosh.com/research24)