

## OSH Authorities — Ireland

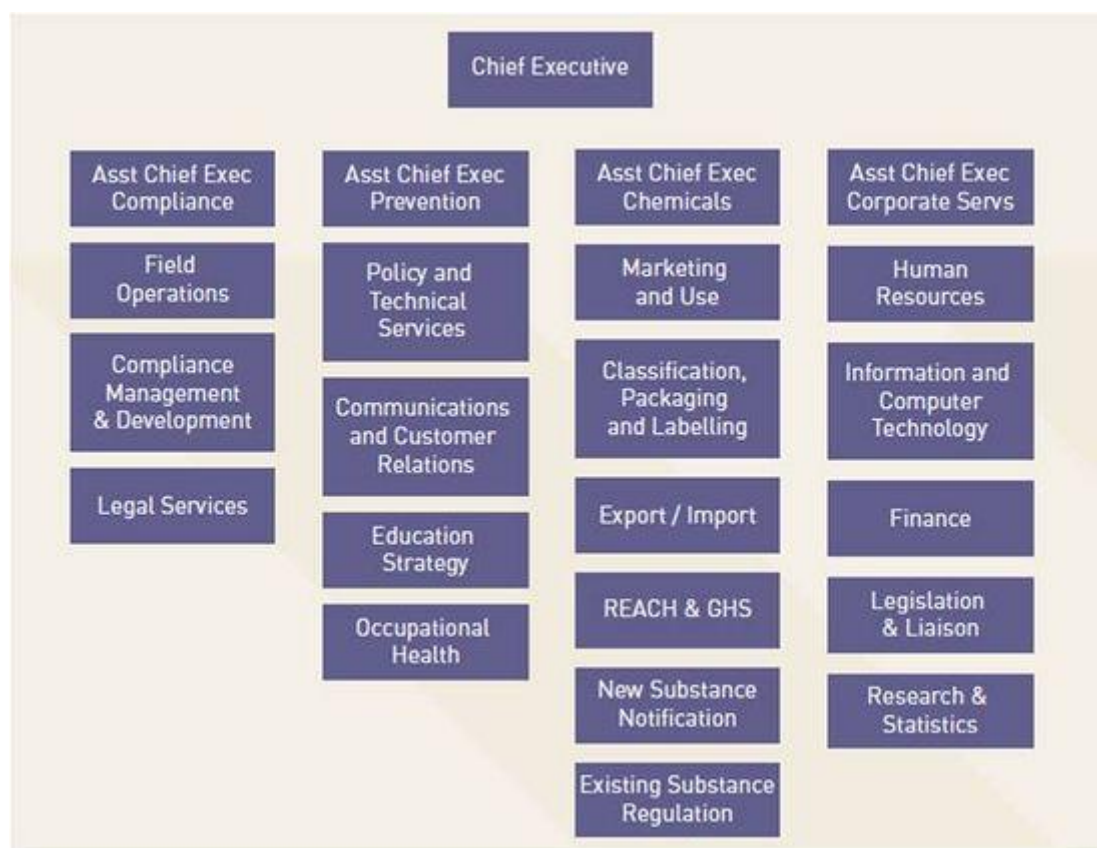
### Description scheme for country overviews

## IRELAND

Source: [https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH\\_system\\_at\\_national\\_level\\_-\\_Ireland](https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Ireland)

#### OSH infrastructure

Scheme:



## Explanatory text:

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is responsible for overseeing occupational safety and health (OSH), including compliance with consultation procedures. The HSA is a state-sponsored body, established under the SHWW Act 1989, that reports directly to the minister overseeing the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI). It is responsible for every type of industry, workplace and work, in both the public sector and the private sector. This ranges from micro enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to large organisations with multiple locations and thousands of employees. The HSA has its own health and safety inspectorate, which is responsible for inspecting and enforcing OSH legislation. The health and safety inspectorate is distinct and separate from the labour inspectorate in Ireland.

The HSA is the national centre for information and advice for employers, employees and the self-employed on all aspects of workplace health and safety. It also promotes education, training and research in the OSH field. The HSA and its inspectorate produce a number of publications, reports, codes of practice, guidance and tools, which are available on its website. The HSA is organised into four divisions: Compliance, Prevention, Chemicals, Corporate Services (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: HSA organisational chart

The HSA is a state-sponsored body that operates under the auspices of the DJEI. Within this structure, the Health and Safety Policy Section acts as a liaison mechanism between the HSA and the DJEI. The functions of the section, in this regard, are:

- to formulate and develop policy relating to workplace health and safety, including reviewing legislative requirements and 'work environment' developments on an ongoing basis;
- to monitor and support the activities of the HSA;
- to advise and inform the Minister of the DJEI and the department's management team on matters relating to workplace health and safety;
- to interact with the HSA and other government departments, state agencies and the European Commission on matters relating to workplace health and safety.

#### ▪ OSH authorities and inspection services

Name of authority	<b>Health and Safety Authority (HSA)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.hsa.ie">http://www.hsa.ie</a>
Short abstract	<p>The HSA is the national statutory body responsible for enforcing OSH law, promoting and encouraging accident prevention, and providing information and advice to all companies, organisations and individuals. The aim of the HSA is to make occupational safety, health and welfare an integral part of doing business in every Irish workplace.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with legislation, the HSA seeks, primarily, to reduce workplace accidents by providing guidance and support to employers and employees. Inspectors of the HSA carry out reactive and proactive inspections of workplaces. Reactive inspections may arise following an accident, incident or complaint. Proactive inspections may be routine or targeted. The purpose of an inspection is to assist the HSA with carrying out some of the general functions assigned by Section 34 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. These functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring the implementation of and compliance with statutory health, and welfare requirements;</li> <li>• enforcing any relevant statutory provisions set out in health, safety and welfare legislation;</li> <li>• promoting, encouraging and advising employers and employees in relation to health and safety training;</li> <li>• promoting and encouraging measures aimed at the prevention of accidents, dangerous occurrences and personal injury at work;</li> <li>• providing information and advice on matters relating to health, safety and welfare;</li> <li>• promoting and encouraging the implementation of best practice methodologies and processes.</li> </ul>
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#### ▪ Compensation and insurance bodies

Name of body	<b>Personal Injuries Assessment Board</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.piab.ie">https://www.piab.ie</a>
Short abstract	<p>Under the Personal Injuries Assessment Board Act 2003, anyone intending to seek compensation for a personal injury (other than a personal injury arising from medical negligence) must make an application through InjuriesBoard.ie. InjuriesBoard.ie is the statutory body that provides an independent assessment of personal injury compensation for victims of accidents, including workplace accidents. InjuriesBoard.ie is staffed with public servants that have the relevant legal, insurance and medical expertise to assess OSH compensation claims, and has established an independent panel made up of medical experts from across Ireland. Employees use their employer's public liability insurance to claim for injuries and ill health from work-related accidents and illnesses through the courts for civil compensation. The state also has a system of occupational injury and illness benefits that are paid to those out of work. These are paid from the budget of the Department of Social and Family Protection.</p>
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## ■ Research institutes

Name of institute	<b>Work Research Centre (WRC)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.wrc-research.ie/">http://www.wrc-research.ie/</a>
Short abstract	The WRC specialises in research and consultancy on key social issues, organisational change and technological developments. Established in 1988, the WRC has established a strong national and international track record in state-of-the-art assignments for a wide range of clients by undertaking leading research; developing useful and effective services and products; consulting and training; and supporting policy-making.
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## ■ Prevention institutes

Name of institute	<b>Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.iosh.co.uk/">https://www.iosh.co.uk/</a>
Short abstract	IOSH was founded in 1945 and is the chartered body for health and safety professionals. With more than 40,000 individual members, it is the biggest professional health and safety organisation in the world. The Ireland branch of IOSH was founded in 1982. There are currently five districts and five specialist sections in the Ireland branch. The Ireland branch committee consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a treasurer, a secretary, a development officer, some non-officer members, and a representative from each of the districts and specialist sections.
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Name of institute	<b>National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO)</b>
Link	<a href="https://niso.ie/">https://niso.ie/</a>
Short abstract	NISO provides information and services to help improve safety and the workplace. Its services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing leading information, and advisory and training services;</li> <li>• promoting a culture of excellence in workplace health and safety;</li> <li>• playing a leading role in advancing the national health and safety agenda.</li> </ul>
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Name of institute	<b>Occupational Health Nurses Association of Ireland (OHNAI)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.ohnai.ie/">http://www.ohnai.ie/</a>
Short abstract	OHNAI is the national body for occupational health nurses who work as either individual practitioners or team members in a workplace setting. The association supports its members in their role in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preventing accidents and ill health at work;</li> <li>• providing care to employees through health promotion, health surveillance, rehabilitation, and the management of health and safety;</li> <li>• working to ensure professionalism, quality and legal compliance in occupational health practice.</li> </ul>
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#### ▪ Other OSH services

Name of service	<b>Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FOM)</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.rcpi.ie/faculties/faculty-of-occupational-medicine/">https://www.rcpi.ie/faculties/faculty-of-occupational-medicine/</a>
Short abstract	<p>FOM is a charity committed to improving health at work. It is the professional and educational body for occupational medicine in Ireland, and is a faculty of Ireland's Royal College of Physicians. Given this, it seeks to ensure the highest standards in the practice of occupational medicine.</p> <p>FOM members work in partnership with other occupational health bodies to promote health and work in many ways. Their aim is to achieve healthy working lives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximising people's opportunities to benefit from healthy and rewarding work while not putting themselves or others at unreasonable risk;</li> <li>• eliminating preventable injury and illness caused or aggravated by work;</li> <li>• allowing everyone access to advice from a competent occupational physician as part of comprehensive OSH services;</li> <li>• providing support to the faculty's membership to raise the standard of occupational health practice.</li> </ul>
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Name of service	<b>Irish Ergonomic Society (IES)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.irishergonomics.com/">http://www.irishergonomics.com/</a>
Short abstract	<p>The IES is an interdisciplinary, non-profit, non-political, non-union organisation of professional people involved in the ergonomics field. The society promotes the discovery and exchange of knowledge concerning the characteristics of human beings that are applicable to the design of systems and devices of all kinds.</p> <p>The IES encourages appropriate education and training for those entering the ergonomics profession and for those who conceive, design, develop, manufacture, test, manage and participate in systems. The purpose inherent in ergonomics research and application is to contribute to overall human well-being, including social and organisational issues, control room design, musculoskeletal injuries, human reliability, training, and health and safety.</p>
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#### ▪ Standardisation bodies

Name of body	<b>National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.nsai.ie">https://www.nsai.ie</a>
Short abstract	<p>The NSAI is Ireland's official standards body. It operates under the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act (1996) and is accountable to the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. The NSAI is the national certification authority for CE marking, and it provides a certification service to enable businesses to demonstrate that Irish goods and services conform to the applicable standards. As Ireland's official standards body, the NSAI aims to inspire consumer confidence and create the infrastructure needed for products and services to be recognised and relied upon all over the world.</p>
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