

# OSH Authorities — United Kingdom

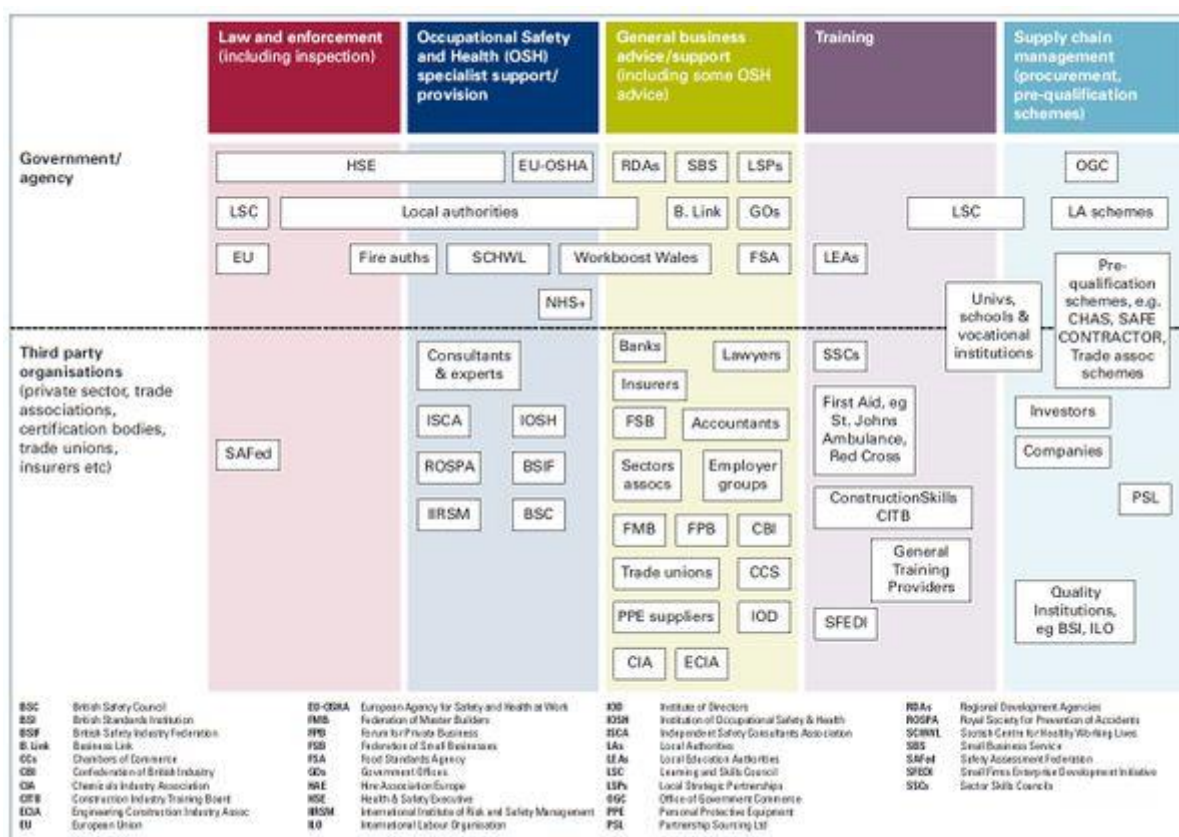
## Description scheme for country overviews

### UNITED KINGDOM

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#### OSH infrastructure

#### Scheme:



▪ **OSH authorities and inspection services**

Name of authority	<b>Health and Safety Executive (HSE)</b>
Links	<a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/">http://www.hse.gov.uk/</a>
Short abstract	<p>Under the Health and Safety at Work (HSW) Act, the HSE has been set up to support the government's strategic aims and current targets for health and safety at work. Its main aim is to secure the health, safety and welfare of people at work and protect others from risks to their health and safety brought about by work activity. Its mission is to prevent those at work and those affected by work activities from death, injury and ill health.</p> <p>According to the Act, the main statutory duties of the HSE are to propose and set the necessary standards for health and safety performance; secure compliance with those standards; carry out research and publish the results; provide an information and advisory service; and provide a Minister of the Crown on request with information and expert advice.</p> <p>To perform these duties, the HSE seeks to influence people and organisations — duty holders and stakeholders — in embracing high standards of health and safety; to promote the benefits of employers and workers working together to manage health and safety sensibly and investigate incidents; to enquire into citizens' complaints and enforce the law.</p> <p>The HSE is the primary delivery agent for the UK government's Department for Work and Pension's strategic objective of improving health and safety outcomes. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has the principal responsibility for the HSE. Certain areas of risk or harm directly or indirectly related to work activity are covered by legislation other than the HSW Act and are not dealt with by the HSE. These include disability discrimination, consumer and food safety, fire safety, marine, railway, and aviation safety, and most aspects of environmental protection.</p> <p>Local authorities enforce health and safety laws mainly in the distribution, retail, office, leisure and catering sectors. The HSE liaises closely with local authorities on enforcement matters through the HSE/Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELA). Partnership teams (comprising the HSE and local authority staff) and an enforcement liaison officer network in HSE regional offices across the United Kingdom also provide advice and support. HELA provides a strategic oversight of the partnership, aiming to maximise its effectiveness in improving health and safety outcomes — including enforcement priorities for local authorities. A local government panel, comprising local authority councillors, was also established in 2006 and regularly meets the HSE Board for a strategic dialogue on local, central and devolved government issues that impact on health and safety regulatory functions. It also reviews the effectiveness and performance of the partnership between the two enforcing authorities.</p>
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## ■ Compensation and insurance bodies

Name of institute	<b>Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.fca.org.uk/">https://www.fca.org.uk/</a>
Short abstract	<p>All insurers are authorised by the FCA. Under the provisions of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969, most employers are required to insure against liability for injury to or disease experienced by employees arising out from their employment. The Act ensures that employers have at least a minimum level of insurance cover to cover the cost of compensation for employee injuries or illness, whether they are caused on or off site (with certain exclusions). Under the law, employers are required to use an authorised insurer. Authorised insurers are individuals or companies working under the terms of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The FCA maintains a register of authorised insurers. Employers must be insured for at least GBP 5 million. However, the amount of insurance cover depends on risks and liabilities specific to the business/organisation. In practice, most insurers offer cover of at least GBP 10 million. When a policy is taken out or renewed, the insurer provides a certificate of employers' liability insurance. This must clearly state the minimum level of cover provided and the companies covered by the policy. The employer must display a copy of the certificate of insurance where their employees can easily read it.</p> <p>The HSE enforces the law on employers' liability insurance, and HSE inspectors can check that an employer has employers' liability insurance with an approved insurer for at least GBP 5 million. The inspectors may also ask to see the certificate of insurance and other insurance details. If an employer does not have suitable insurance, they can be fined up to GBP 2,500 for any day that they are without insurance. If the certificate of insurance is not displayed or made available to HSE inspectors if requested, the employer can be fined up to GBP 1,000.</p>
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## ■ Research institutes

Name of institute	<b>Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.hsl.gov.uk/">http://www.hsl.gov.uk/</a>
Short abstract	<p>The HSL — the national institute for occupational safety and health research — was originally set up as HSE's laboratory to minimise risks to people's health and safety at work. Today, while continuing to support the HSE, the HSL now works with a wide range of other public and private sector organisations, often conducting detailed and bespoke research and development work on their behalf. The HSL's primary role is to provide investigative work and services arising from HSE's day-to-day operations, which often require a rapid multidisciplinary response. The HSE maintains a dedicated horizon-scanning team, based at the HSL, to keep the health and safety consequences arising from new trends in science and technology under review. The HSL is also a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre in Occupational Health.</p>
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▪ **Prevention institutes**

Name of institute	<b>Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.iosh.co.uk/">http://www.iosh.co.uk/</a>
Short abstract	Founded in 1945, IOSH — a registered charity — is the largest health and safety membership organisation in the world, with more than 40,000 individual members internationally. IOSH is committed to creating ‘a world of work which is safe, healthy and sustainable’ and aims to maintain high standards throughout the OSH profession. IOSH works with a range of organisations (national and international) to raise awareness and standards, by developing training for schools and businesses, and running campaigns that are relevant to millions of people who work. IOSH is one of the world’s leaders in health and safety training.
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Name of institute	<b>British Safety Council (BSC)</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.britsafe.org/">https://www.britsafe.org/</a>
Short abstract	Founded in 1957, the BSC is now one of the largest independent occupational health, safety and environmental organisations in the world. As a registered charity, the BSC has a proud tradition of campaigning on health, safety and environmental issues. The BSC works with businesses to improve their health, safety and environmental management. Its activities involve campaigning and influencing, and it is a champion of young worker safety. The BSC vision is that no one should be killed, injured or made ill by their work.
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Name of institute	<b>Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.rospace.com/">http://www.rospace.com/</a>
Short abstract	With a history dating back to 1916, RoSPA’s mission is to save lives and reduce injuries. RoSPA is committed to preventing accidents while seeking to strike the right balance between prescription and individual choice. It promotes safety and the prevention of accidents at work, during leisure, on the road, in the home and through safety education. Their activities include campaigning, collecting data, carrying out research, developing policies, informing and educating, auditing and providing expert consultancy.
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Name of service	<b>International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.iirsm.org/">http://www.iirsm.org/</a>
Short abstract	The IIRSM, established in 1975, is a professional membership body that provides recognition, information, support and enhancement for health and safety professionals and specialist members related to the health and safety field. It was created to advance professional standards in accident prevention and occupational health throughout the world. Over the last three decades, the IIRSM has grown from a collective group of UK health and safety professionals to a thriving international institute covering over 70 countries. Its main objective is to advance public education in accident prevention and occupational health in industry. To achieve this, the institute promotes research into accident prevention and occupational health and publishes the results, encourages individuals to adopt health and safety best practice and help prevent accidents, advises anyone entering the health and safety field to undertake training and obtain professional qualifications, and exchanges information with equivalent bodies throughout the world.
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Name of service	<b>British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.bsif.co.uk/">http://www.bsif.co.uk/</a>
Short abstract	BSIF, set up in 1994, is the United Kingdom's leading trade body within the safety industry. BSIF has over 160 members, including manufacturers, distributors, test houses, certification bodies, safety professionals and service providers. Their aim is to provide support and guidance on a wide range of occupational safety issues. It aims to help both influence legislation and provide industries in general with a source of authoritative information on a range of workplace safety issues while representing the needs of its members. BSIF is the lead association for the Personal Protective Equipment Directive and is recognised as a competent authority by the HSE. BSIF has active links with many government departments and over 130 representative trade bodies.
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Name of service	<b>Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.cieh.org/">http://www.cieh.org/</a>
Short abstract	The CIEH is a registered charity and the professional voice for environmental health. Its history can be traced back to the 1840s. The CIEH sets standards, and accredits courses and qualifications for the education of members and other environmental health practitioners. It provides over 50 certification training programmes that include food safety, health and safety, and environmental awareness through a network of over 10,000 registered trainers and 6,000 registered training centres across the United Kingdom. It also provides information, evidence and policy advice to local and national governments and environmental and public health practitioners in the public and private sectors. As an awarding body, the CIEH provides qualifications, events and support materials on topics relevant to health, well-being and safety to develop workplace skills and best practice.
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▪ **Standardisation bodies**

Name of body	<b>British Standards Institution (BSI)</b>
Link	<a href="http://www.bsigroup.co.uk/">http://www.bsigroup.co.uk/</a>
Short abstract	The BSI is a national organisation responsible for the development and publication of standards in the United Kingdom. The BSI is a semi-governmental institution with juridical responsibility. Since its foundation in 1901 as the world's first standardisation body, the BSI has grown into a leading independent business services organisation on a global scale providing standard-based solutions in more than 140 countries. The BSI develops private, national and international standards, certifies management systems and products, provides assessment, certification, and testing of products and services, and provides training and information on standards and international trade. The BSI developed the first standard used for developing occupational health and safety management systems, BS 8800, which went on to become the OHSAS 18000 standard series— the most widely used OSH standard series globally. The BSI also developed the first guidance standard on psychosocial risk management in the workplace — PAS1010.
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Name of body	<b>National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH)</b>
Link	<a href="https://www.nebosh.org.uk/">https://www.nebosh.org.uk/</a>
Short abstract	NEBOSH was formed in 1979 as an independent examining board and awarding (certification) body with charitable status. It offers a comprehensive range of globally recognised, vocationally related qualifications designed to meet the health, safety, environmental and risk management needs of all places of work in both the private and the public sectors. Courses leading to NEBOSH qualifications attract around 35,000 candidates annually and are offered by over 500 course providers, with exams taken in over 100 countries around the world. These qualifications are recognised by the relevant professional membership bodies, such as IOSH and the IRRSM. NEBOSH examinations and assessments are set by its professionally qualified staff who are assisted by external examiners, most of whom are chartered safety and health practitioners operating within industry, the public sector or in enforcement.
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