

Information about agencies to be shared in 'Making Enquiries under S.42' training

1. Who are we?

Environmental Health Service

2. Who are we?

Each Local Authority, with the exception of Derbyshire County Council (DCC), has environmental health professionals in the form of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs)/ Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs)/ Environmental Health Technical Officers (EHTO), Enforcement Officers who can enforce various types of public health, housing, pollution, food and health and safety legislation. They are primarily regulatory officers but do play a major role in protecting public health, maintaining a safe environment and have both technical and scientific expertise to offer support and advice to partnering agencies, businesses, community groups and the public.

3. What do we do? (The below text sets out some of the relevant areas in s.42 enquiries, but is not limited to these items).

EHOs/EHPs/EHTOs/Enforcement Officers have a regulatory role in ensuring public safety in a wide number of areas; being responsible for carrying out measures to protect public health, enforcing legislation relating to the natural and built environments that benefit human health and providing support to minimize health and safety hazards.

Particular statutory obligations relate to domestic home environments to ensure 'fitness for habitation' by the removal of serious hazards (known as Category 1 hazards*) to achieve the ideal standards within a property. The risk of harm to a person may arise given physical and psychological hazards in the home environment i.e. structural collapse, carbon monoxide from defective appliances, or excess cold from poorly heated and insulated homes. Table 1 below indicates some of the key hazard areas which are checked when a property is assessed by an EH Professional.

Risk of infection and the spread of disease also forms a significant part of environmental health inspection work and may require the use of statutory enforcement powers to remedy unsafe or unsanitary premises.

4. Legislative Powers

- **Public Health Acts 1936 & 1961 / Environmental Protection Act 1990** - for dealing with premises which are in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance and to deal with accumulations of rubbish and filthy and verminous properties
- **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949** - duty to take action where there is evidence of rats or mice.
- **Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984** - Prevention from the spread of infection/disease.
- **Housing Act 2004, Housing, Health and Safety Rating System Regulations 2005*** – Statutory duties/powers to mitigate Category 1 hazards in a domestic environment.

Table 1

HAZARDS	<u>Physiological</u>	<u>Psychological</u>	<u>Safety</u>
	Damp & Mould etc.	Crowding & Space	Falls in baths
	Excess Cold	Entry by intruders	Falls on the level
	Excess Heat	Lighting	Falls on the stairs
	Asbestos	Noise	Falls between levels
			Gas safety
	Biocides		Electrical Hazards
	Carbon Monoxide	<u>Infection</u>	Fire
	Lead	Domestic Hygiene, Pests & Refuse	Hot surfaces
	Radiation	Food Safety	Collisions/Entrapment
	Uncombusted fuel	Personal Hygiene, Sanitation & Drainage	Explosions
	VOC's	Water Supply	Structural Collapse

Together with the hazards in the above table, Environmental Health Professionals take a key regulatory role in the control of environmental protection, commercial food production, health and safety.

5. Referral Route

To speak with the most appropriate officer, call the local authority (within the locality of the case or incident) and ask to speak with an Environmental Health Professional. A brief explanation of the situation should ensure that the appropriate specialist officer is obtained.

- **Amber Valley Borough Council** Tel: 01773 570222
- **Bolsover District Council Bolsover District Council** Tel: 01246 242424
- **Chesterfield Borough Council** Tel: 01246 345345
- **Derby City Council** Tel: 01332 293111
- **Derbyshire Dales District Council** Tel: 01629 761100
- **Erewash Borough Council** Tel: 0115 907 2244
- **High Peak Borough Council** Tel: 0345 129 7777
- **North East Derbyshire District Council** Tel: 01246 231111
- **South Derbyshire District Council** Tel: 01283 595795

6. Supporting Partners

EHOs/EHPs/EHTOs work alongside partnering agencies including Fire, Police, Social Care, social housing providers (e.g., Housing Associations) and various specialist disciplines within the NHS and Public Health England.

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