

Environmental Health Officer

What is it?

An Environmental Health Officer ensures public health and safety by monitoring and enforcing environmental and public health standards. EHOs address issues such as food hygiene, housing conditions, workplace safety, pollution, and pest control to protect communities from health hazards.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A degree or postgraduate qualification accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), such as Environmental Health, is essential. Completion of a CIEH-accredited Practical Training Portfolio (PTP) and professional exams for certification. Graduate training schemes with local authorities or private companies provide on-the-job training.

What the Work Involves:

Inspecting businesses and properties to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations. Investigating complaints about food hygiene, noise, pollution, or poor housing conditions. Advising businesses and individuals on improving health and safety practices. Enforcing legislation and taking legal action against violators. Collecting and analysing samples for environmental testing. Responding to public health emergencies, such as outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for EHOs is consistent due to the need for public health and environmental protection. Career progression includes senior officer roles, management positions, or specialisation in areas like food safety or environmental protection. Opportunities exist in local government, private consultancy, industry, and international organisations.

Annual Salary £25,000 - £50,000

Typical weekly hours: 35 hours – 39

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Are passionate about public health and environmental issues. Enjoy solving problems and conducting investigations. Are detail-oriented and able to make objective decisions. Have strong interpersonal skills and can handle conflict diplomatically.

Money/Wage Guide:

Starting salaries range £25,000 to £30,000 per year

Experienced EHO can earn between £35,000 and £45,000.

Senior Roles and managers may earn over £50,000

Related Opportunities:

- Food Safety Officer
- Occupational Health & Safety Officer
- Environmental Consultant
- Public Health Officer

Further Information:

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

<https://www.cieh.org/>

Local Government Careers

<https://www.local.gov.uk/>

National Careers Service

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