

## ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Every day your health, your home, your community and your environment are being positively affected by the work of the Environmental Health Service and you are probably not even aware of it.

The water you drink, the food you eat, the air you breathe, the cosmetics you use, the pre-school your children attend are all just a few of the areas in your daily life where you will have come into direct contact with the work of a unique group of health professionals known as Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).

EHOs work to protect the health of the public by controlling and preventing those factors in the environment which may cause ill health or reduced quality of life.

While promoting and protecting health is the role of many health professionals in the HSE the approach of the EHO is somewhat different because much of their work is done by enforcing regulations such as tobacco control, cosmetic products, drinking water, food safety, early years services, and infectious diseases.

The work of the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) is both varied and interesting but as well as being an enforcer the Environmental Health Officer is also an advocate, and in addition to those areas where there are laws to enforce EHOs also highlight areas of risk to public health that are not regulated but which in their opinion require control for example, gyms, leisure centres, tattoo and body piercing parlours.

In the coming months and years the Environmental Health Service will extend its work to meet new public health challenges such as enforcement of legislation to control and regulate the use of sunbeds by minors and planned public health legislation on alcohol.

### **Feedback on the Environmental Health Service**

The role of the Environmental Health Service is to protect the health of the public by controlling and preventing factors in the environment which may cause ill health or reduced quality of life. Enforcing regulations and legislation is a central part of this work and we aim to do this in a fair and consistent way.

We want you to tell us if you have a comment, compliment or complaint about your experience and interaction with the Environmental Health Service.

If you have received a letter/report from an Environmental Health Officer and have a query or a matter you wish to raise please feel free to contact the EHO who sent you the correspondence to discuss it. Their name and contact details should be on the document you received.

If you have a complaint or an issue that you feel cannot be fully addressed by discussion with the local EHO then please contact the Principal Environmental Health Officer (PEHO). The PEHO should also be contactable at the address/phone number on the letter/report you received. Alternatively please see the list of contact details for all the Environmental Health Offices on this webpage.

We aim to resolve any matters raised with the EHS through local resolution however formal complaints can also be lodged through other mechanisms within the HSE. For more details please refer to the 'You and Your Health Service' section on the homepage of this website

[Click here for more information on a career in the Environmental Health Service](#)