



Environmental Health Officer

Environmental health officers (EHOs) help protect members of the public from disease and other dangers to health. They advise and educate organisations on how to meet regulations and make sure that they are enforced.

They deal with safety of food and water, housing, air and noise pollution, epidemic control, pest control and waste disposal.

What does the job involve?

- inspecting shops, restaurants, abattoirs (slaughterhouses) or refuse disposal sites to check that they meet with official hygiene standards
- providing advice and information to local businesses, the public and national agencies
- checking levels of air, noise, water and land pollution using scientific equipment
- taking photos and video evidence
- visiting residences in response to complaints from the neighbours and proposing changes
- tracing sources of food-poisoning and collecting samples for analysis
- monitoring the water in public swimming pools
- writing detailed reports of visits and recommendations
- collecting information and appearing in court to give evidence in court cases.

Routes and choices while at school:

You will need to try to get at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent qualifications. These should include English, maths and science. Other relevant subjects include food technology and law.



Skills You'll need:

- active listening skills
- analytical thinking skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning
- legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- excellent verbal communication skills
- excellent written communication skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently



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How to get into this role:

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role

Apprenticeship

You can do a level 6-degree environmental health practitioner apprenticeship.

This usually takes 4 years to complete as a mix of on-the-job training and academic study at an approved university.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship

Work

You may be able to start as an environmental health technician and study for a part-time environmental health degree while you're working.

With qualifications and experience, you may then be able to work towards chartered practitioner status.

Further information

Career tips

You can find more details about training and working in environmental health through the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.



Career path and progression

- With experience you could work as an employee or consultant in:
 - local authorities
 - government departments
 - retailers and hotel chains
 - regulators and enforcement agencies
 - the NHS
 - the armed services
 - university research
 - charities and international development organisations
- You could progress to supervisory or management positions.

Rates of Pay

Salaries for qualified environmental health officers in the UK tend to be in the range of £27,000 to £40,000 a year. Senior EHOs can earn up to around £50,000 a year.