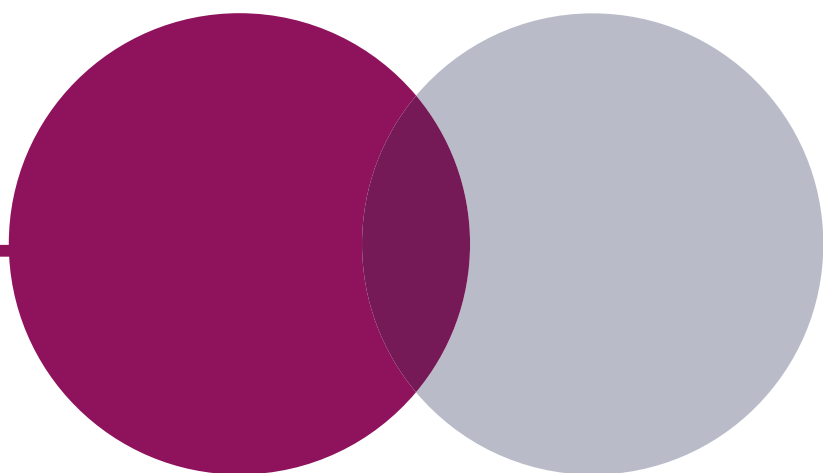




National Audit Office




Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy Statement

STATEMENT

by the
National Audit Office

JULY 2024



**We are the UK's
independent
public spending
watchdog.**

**We support Parliament
in holding government
to account and we
help improve public
services through our
high-quality audits.**

The National Audit Office (NAO) scrutinises public spending for Parliament and is independent of government and the civil service. We help Parliament hold government to account and we use our insights to help people who manage and govern public bodies improve public services.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Gareth Davies, is an Officer of the House of Commons and leads the NAO. We audit the financial accounts of departments and other public bodies. We also examine and report on the value for money of how public money has been spent.

In 2020, the NAO's work led to a positive financial impact through reduced costs, improved service delivery, or other benefits to citizens, of £926 million.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy Statement

The National Audit Office (NAO) Board accepts its responsibilities under the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 and all other relevant subsidiary and associated legislation. Managing health and safety is an integral part of managing the total risks faced by the NAO and will be resourced adequately. In particular, the NAO undertakes to meet all its legal obligations regarding health, safety and wellbeing and, so far as is reasonably practicable, will:

- ensure that all business decisions take account of the health, safety and wellbeing of our people;
- maintain safe and healthy working conditions and adequate welfare arrangements;
- provide adequate control of the risks arising from our work activities;
- provide facilities for comprehensive employer/employee consultation both directly and with staff representatives, as appropriate;
- provide and maintain safe plant and equipment;
- ensure safe handling and use of substances;
- provide an environment which supports employees' mental wellbeing;
- define responsibilities and ensure the competence of all employees by providing, as necessary, information, instruction, training and supervision;
- prevent accidents, dangerous occurrences and cases of work-related ill health and investigate, record, report and act upon those incidents that do occur;
- review and revise this policy annually with Board approval every three years and provide information on the NAO's safety performance in the Annual Report; and
- whilst the Executive Team and Board accept their individual and collective roles in providing health and safety leadership for our organisation, Catherine Hope-Maclellan has accepted the appointment as the Executive Director and Board member with particular responsibility for health and safety risk management.

The NAO will apply the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and other associated regulations and competent people have been appointed to advise upon and ensure compliance with their requirements.

The overall aim of this policy can only be achieved through the support and cooperation of all staff and all other persons who use and maintain our premises. The responsibility for implementing the policy rests with line management and with each individual employee.

We recognise that in a number of areas we will be reliant upon our contractors, suppliers, consultants, tenants and others to maintain appropriate health and safety standards and our procedures for pre-qualification, control, cooperation and auditing must be robust

The NAO is committed to continuous improvement in health and safety performance. The Health and Safety Committee monitors progress and reports to the Board.

Gareth Davies,
Comptroller and Auditor General
July 2021

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