

## Health and Safety Inspector

Health and safety inspectors make sure that places of work are safe for workers and members of the public.

They inspect machinery, management systems, working methods, and the use and storage of dangerous substances. They check that employers and employees follow health and safety regulations.

### The Work

You could be:

- inspecting factories and other industrial or commercial premises (except shops), oil rigs, railways, mines, nuclear installations, building sites, hospitals, sports grounds, fairgrounds and agricultural sites
- checking the safety and calculating risk factors of machines, building methods, or the use of chemicals
- taking photos and measuring noise, temperature and vibration levels
- investigating complaints and the causes of accidents, including fatal accidents
- warning employers or managers about bad practices and initiating enforced changes
- if necessary, working with the Police, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service who decide whether to carry out prosecutions
- writing reports of inspections
- attending a court of law to give evidence
- keeping up to date with new legislation and health and safety standards.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the area in which you work
- the demand for the job.

Salaries for trainee health and safety inspectors in the UK start at around £26,500 a year. The salary for HSE trainee inspectors on the HSE Regulatory Training Programme (RTP) is £32,802 - £36,625 a year. This rises to £40,788 a year after completion of the programme and promotion to the main grade inspector, which can take three years.

With up to 5 years' experience this can rise to £50,000 a year and senior specialists can earn up to around £90,000 a year depending on specialism, location and level of responsibility.

The civil service offers a good pension scheme and additional benefits.

### Conditions

- You would work in an office but spend a lot of time visiting premises and sites or attending court.
- Each year you have a certain number of premises to inspect.

- These may be dirty, noisy or dangerous.
- You may have to work in confined spaces or at heights.
- You would sometimes wear protective clothing.
- You might have to spend overnights away from home.
- In an emergency you may have to work evenings, nights or weekends.

## Getting In

- You should have a degree (SCQF Levels 9-11) in a relevant subject.
- Relevant subjects include engineering, environmental health, food technology or a physical science subject. For example, a nuclear inspector will need a degree in a scientific or engineering subject, whereas an inspector in the food industry would require a degree in food technology.
- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) entry requirements for trainees on the RTP is a minimum 2:2 Honours degree (SCQF Level 10) in any subject, or a higher qualification such as Masters (SCQF Level 11).
- For some specialist posts you need specialised qualifications, for example chartered engineer status.
- Entry to a degree course usually requires 4-5 good Highers.
- You must meet Civil Service nationality requirements.
- You need a driving licence.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact [Disclosure Scotland](#) for details on the type you would need.
- You should be fit as you might have to access various parts of workplaces and sites, including at heights or in small spaces.

Health and safety inspectors mainly work for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The HSE in Scotland has offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness. The [HSE careers website](#) has a list of the [latest vacancies](#).

You will also see jobs advertised on [SHP4Jobs](#).

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- committed to improving health and safety in the workplace
- observant – to spot safety hazards
- honest, responsible and fair
- tactful, assertive, calm and professional
- accurate – you may need to collect information for use in court
- able to analyse written and numerical data and write clear concise reports
- confident to work alone and make decisions
- able to judge when to consult specialists
- persuasive and able to change peoples' attitudes.

You should have:

- good organisation skills

- good IT skills
- a good memory for legal requirements and technical matters
- excellent communication and negotiation skills.

## Training

- All training is in-house by the learning and development section of the HSE.
- Trainees on the Regulators' Training Programme (RTP) will study for the Postgraduate Diploma in Regulatory Occupational Health and Safety which is bespoke to HSE and accredited by NEBOSH. The RTP consists of 3 assessed units; Unit 1: Legal and Enforcement; Unit 2: Occupational Health and Hygiene and Safety Technology; and Unit 3: Professional Practice Competency Framework.
- The final part of the programme, Unit 4, is Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

## Getting On

- You could gain promotion within the HSE.
- You could become a specialist inspector in, for example: mechanical engineering, control and instrumentation, electrical engineering, fire and explosion, microbiology, process safety and plant integrity, human factors, marine engineering, naval architecture, diving, predictive analysis, risk assessment, explosives, or well engineering.
- You may have to move around the country for promotion.

## Contacts

### Civil Service Jobs

Website: [www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk)

### Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Website: [careers.hse.gov.uk](http://careers.hse.gov.uk)

X: @H\_S\_E

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hsejob](http://www.facebook.com/hsejob)

## Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.