



The Royal Environmental  
Health Institute of Scotland

# About REHIS and Environmental Health in Scotland



*Improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of Scotland's people  
through education, training and qualifications in Environmental Health*

# What is Environmental Health

'Environmental Health is that area of Public Health activity which strives to improve, protect and maintain health and well-being through action on the physical environment and on life circumstances.' (Old report 2006)

In Scotland, the seven principle subjects within Environmental Health are:

- » Food Safety
- » Food Standards
- » Occupational Health & Safety
- » Public Health
- » Waste Management
- » Built Environment
- » Pollution Control

## Environmental Health Professionals

The delivery of the Environmental Health Service in Scotland lies primarily with Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) working in Scotland's local authorities. EHOs are public health professionals, educated to degree level and professionally qualified. Their primary objective is to improve and protect the health of Scotland's people. The Environmental Health workforce in Scotland's local authorities also includes Food Safety Officers, Contaminated Land Officers and a range of other technical and scientific support staff.

In recent years the number of opportunities for environmental health professionals to practice in government agencies and in the private sector at home and abroad have increased.

The contribution of Registered Presenters working from REHIS Approved Training Centres to improving and protecting health in Scotland through the delivery of community training courses leading to nationally recognised REHIS qualifications is immense. Presenters of REHIS courses (food hygiene, food and health, HACCP, infection control, and occupational health and safety) are rightly considered to be part of the wider environmental health workforce and the preventative education they deliver contributes to reducing the disease burden in society.

REHIS, EHOs and the wider environmental health workforce work in partnership with a wide range of organisations and these include:

- Food Standards Scotland [www.foodstandards.gov.scot](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot)
- Health Protection Scotland [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk)
- Health and Safety Executive [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- International Federation of Environmental Health [www.ifeh.org](http://www.ifeh.org)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)
- Scottish Government [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)
- Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland [www.socoehs.com](http://www.socoehs.com)

## About REHIS

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, often referred to as REHIS, was established in 1983 following the merger of the Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland (founded 1875) and The Scottish Institute of Environmental Health (founded 1891).

The Institute was Incorporated by Royal Charter in 2001. The affairs of the Institute are managed by a Council, elected annually by members. The Institute is a Member of The International Federation of Environmental Health and is a UK Competent Authority under Regulation 4 of The European Communities (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2007 for the Professions 'Environmental Health Officer' and 'Chartered Environmental Health Officer'.

The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity, No. SC009406.

## Why REHIS exists

The objects for which the Institute is established, and which are contained in its Royal Charter, are:

For the benefit of the community to promote the advancement of Environmental Health by

- » Stimulating general interest in and disseminating knowledge concerning Environmental Health.
- » Promoting education and training in matters relating to Environmental Health.
- » Maintaining, by examination or otherwise, high standards of professional practice and conduct on the part of Environmental Health Officers in Scotland.

## What REHIS does

- The voice of Environmental Health Professionals in Scotland
- Liaises with government
- Presents networking opportunities
- Presents seminars and training events
- Maintains CPD Schemes for members
- Awards Chartered EHO status
- Publishes a Journal and e-Newsletter
- Awards the qualifications required to practice as Environmental Health Officers and Food Safety Officers
- Operates a network of over 700 community based Approved Training Centres offering its courses at up to four levels in a range of subjects including food safety, occupational health and safety, food and health and infection control and awards nationally recognised qualifications to successful course participants
- Works in partnership with the SQA and partners from a range of business and industry sectors.

## Joining us

If you wish to contribute to the work of the Institute and support your profession then join us - membership application information packs available from the Institute's office.

The Institute has a range of membership categories including:

- » **Corporate Member (EHO)**  
For Environmental Health Officers.
- » **Corporate Member (Other)**  
For holders of other qualifications of a level broadly commensurate with those of an Environmental Health Officer.
- » **Associate**  
For anyone with an interest in Environmental Health.
- » **Student**  
For students studying on accredited environmental health degree courses and for Student / Graduate Trainee Environmental Health Officers.
- » **Affiliate**  
For corporate bodies or unincorporated associations.

Membership is by annual subscription and prospective members require a proposer and seconder, each of whom must be a Member or Fellow of the Institute.



# Core Values and Vision

REHIS is established to promote the advancement of Environmental Health for the benefit of all sectors of the community. Environmental Health embraces all aspects of public health, hygiene and safety in all or any of their branches.

In particular the Institute aims to promote:

- » improvements to the environment which can have a positive impact on public health or safety.
- » safe and healthy housing.
- » an environment which is safe and prevents harm to human health.
- » good standards of occupational health, safety and hygiene.
- » food which is safe, wholesome and accurately described.
- » sustainability, locally, nationally and internationally.
- » effective education and training to ensure environmental health standards are maintained and improved.
- » the resolution of health and environmental health inequalities.
- » equitable, practical and consistent regulations and enforcement.
- » high standards of professional training and conduct amongst Environmental Health Officers and others engaged in maintaining and promoting environmental health.



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