

## 01-2025-RGC Isocyanate Exposures Research Revised Proposal

BOHS Research Governance Committee: Dec 2025 – Paper 2502-09 Version 3 – 1 December 2025

### Approved

This proposal was approved by the Research Governance Committee on 24 November 2025 subject to several amendments that have been incorporated in the text below.

### Objective

BOHS is seeking to better understand the contexts in which occupational exposure data are being collected around isocyanates, so as to improve our understanding of how health risks are being controlled. To do this, BOHS aims to pool information derived from contextual data by occupational hygienists working in the field, analyse the emerging trends and patterns, and see what might be learnt. One of the key benefits of pooling and analysing real-world information is that it will allow the creation of leading indicators of risk, to complement existing indicators, e.g. those provided by HSE.

The research outputs will be made available on a non-commercial basis by BOHS and may include the development of analytical tools to help better manage risks, as well as academic and professional articles to highlight key findings, and benchmarking information. They will provide an evidence base for sectors and industries to better understand how to be effective in control of workplace health hazards relating to isocyanates.

This is a retrospective study of data collected in 2025.

### Opportunity

The only method recommended by HSE for sampling airborne isocyanates is [MDHS 25/4](#)<sup>1</sup>. Unlike other commercially available options, this method measures the Total Reactive Isocyanate Group (TRIG) allowing the data generated to be compared directly to the GB Workplace Exposure Limit.

However, MDHS 25/4 requires the use of sampling media that contain a substance regulated under The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. These media can only be used for sampling isocyanates under a Licence issued by the Home Office. Members of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene (FOH) may operate under the Group Authority Licence (GAL) providing they work under the conditions of the Licence detailed in the GAL Standard Operating Procedure.

As a result of the licensing situation, all the isocyanate monitoring data in the UK are generated either by FOH members, or those exempt from this requirement (HSE personnel). This creates a unique opportunity to examine an entire set of “occupational exposure data” for a substance recognised to be a major cause of occupational asthma through one method. It is therefore of very real significance to the occupational hygiene discipline and profession.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/pdfs/mdhs25-4.pdf>

By participating, FOH members will be able to gain benchmarking and quality assurance feedback which may improve the quality of service to the client.

The database has been populated with anonymised HSE data from a range of research projects.

## **Method**

The process will broadly follow the method outlined in Appendix 1 “How to conduct a BOHS research project”.

A letter will be sent to all BOHS FOH members operating under the GAL who have undertaken sampling within the specified period, explaining the purpose and benefits of the research project and how to participate. The letter will make it clear that the FOH members are being asked to participate because they are the people who know the context in which the data is being collected.

Participating FOH members can choose to either:

- 1) Undertake a structured telephone interview (via Microsoft Teams) where the BOHS researcher will populate the database, based on interview responses. This method is intended to minimise the time and effort required by members. Initial calls will be 30 minutes but in certain cases, where large numbers of samples have been taken, one or more follow-up calls will be required.
- 2) Complete a spreadsheet, based upon their records, and return it to the research team.

The data generated in MDHS 25/4 surveys in the 12 months prior to the date of the first interview will be included. Subject to approval of this proposal by the Research Governance Committee, this would mean collecting data for air tests that took place in the 12 months between January 2025 and December 2025. The amount of data collected by the researcher (and the time taken to collect the data) will depend on the number of occupational hygienists who participate, the types of samples taken (impregnated filters and/or solution), the number of samples, and whether surveys were on similar exposure groups (SEGs) in a similar manner, or where the contextual information is variable and has to be established sample by sample. Therefore, the timescale for data collection is likely to be very variable.

## **The Database**

The database will record monitoring data and associated contextual information on:

- Industry/job/process
- Physical/chemical form of isocyanate
- Monitoring method
- Exposure controls

The fields, and drop-down entries, of the database are detailed below.  
Each sample will require the completion of a single row.

FIELD	DROP-DOWN OPTIONS (or entry requirement)
A BOHS REFERENCE	A simple, unique reference number (e.g. ISO1, ISO2 etc.) assigned by the BOHS researcher in the order received.
B MEASUREMENT DATE	The date the measurement was taken.
C RESULT	The measured isocyanate concentration (in mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
D REFERENCE PERIOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-HOUR TWA</li> <li>• 15-MINUTE REFERENCE PERIOD</li> <li>• OVER THE SAMPLING PERIOD</li> </ul>
E LABORATORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IOM</li> <li>• RPS</li> <li>• HSE</li> </ul>
F SAMPLE TYPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PERSONAL</li> <li>• STATIC</li> </ul>
G REASON FOR STATIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESTABLISH BACKGROUND LEVEL</li> <li>• CLEARANCE TESTING</li> <li>• PART OF SAMPLING TRAIN</li> <li>• NOT APPLICABLE (Select if a personal sample)</li> </ul>
H HARDENER (OR ONE PACK TYPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDI AND ITS PREPOLYMERS</li> <li>• TDI AND ITS PREPOLYMERS</li> <li>• HDI AND ITS PREPOLYMERS</li> <li>• IPDI AND ITS PREPOLYMERS</li> <li>• MIXTURES OF THE ABOVE</li> <li>• OTHER</li> <li>• NOT KNOWN</li> </ul>

- |   |                        |  |
|---|------------------------|--|
| I | MODE OF EXPOSURE       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VAPOUR ONLY</li> <li>• PARTICULATES / AEROSOL ONLY</li> <li>• BOTH VAPOUR AND PARTICULATES / AEROSOL</li> </ul>   |
| J | SAMPLING MEDIUM        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMPREGNATED FILTER (SINGLE LOADING)</li> <li>• IMPREGNATED FILTER (DOUBLE LOADING)</li> <li>• IMPINGER SOLUTION</li> <li>• IMPINGER PLUS FILTER COMBINATION</li> <li>• ASSET SAMPLER</li> </ul> |
| K | SAMPLING TIME          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LESS THAN 30 MINUTES</li> <li>• 30 – 59 MINUTES</li> <li>• 1 – 2 HOURS</li> <li>• OVER 2 HOURS</li> <li>• OVER 4 HOURS</li> </ul>   |
| L | BULK SAMPLE SUBMITTED? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YES</li> <li>• NO</li> </ul>  |
| M | PROCESS DESCRIPTION    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COATING / SPREADING</li> <li>• GLUING / SEALING</li> <li>• MIXING</li> <li>• MOULDING / INJECTING</li> <li>• PAINTING WITH BRUSH / ROLLER</li> <li>• SPRAY PAINTING</li> <li>• OTHER</li> </ul> |

This list may be expanded as new data are added.

- |   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| N | ENGINEERING CONTROLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEV – WALK-IN BOOTH</li> <li>• LEV – CAPTURING / RECEIVING HOOD</li> <li>• LEV - OTHER</li> <li>• YES – BUT TYPE NOT KNOWN</li> <li>• NONE</li> <li>• NOT KNOWN</li> </ul> |
|---|----------------------|---|

O	RESPIRATORY PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POSITIVE PRESSURE FROM CLEAN AIR (HALF-FACE)</li> <li>• POSITIVE PRESSURE FROM CLEAN AIR (FULL-FACE)</li> <li>• POSITIVE PRESSURE FROM FILTERED AIR (HALF-FACE)</li> <li>• POSITIVE PRESSURE FROM FILTERED AIR (FULL-FACE)</li> <li>• FULL-FACE RESPIRATOR</li> <li>• HALF-FACE RESPIRATOR</li> <li>• YES - BUT TYPE NOT KNOWN</li> <li>• NONE</li> <li>• NOT KNOWN</li> </ul>
P	EYE PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EYE PROTECTION BUILT INTO FULL FACE RESPIRATOR</li> <li>• FULL-FACE VISOR</li> <li>• CHEMICAL GRADE GOGGLES</li> <li>• NON-CHEMICAL GRADE EYE PROTECTION</li> <li>• NONE</li> <li>• NOT KNOWN</li> </ul>
Q	SKIN PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLOVES / GAUNTLETS AND COVERALL</li> <li>• GLOVES / GAUNTLETS ONLY</li> <li>• COVERALL ONLY</li> <li>• NONE</li> <li>• NOT KNOWN</li> </ul>
R	INDUSTRY TYPE	Here will appear a drop-down list of SIC codes and industry types. This list may be expanded as new data are added.
S	NUMBER OF WORKERS	Enter the number of workers exposed to isocyanates if known.
T	COMMENTS	Controls - good or bad practice? Why was air testing chosen rather than biological monitoring?

## **Data Management**

Submitted, anonymised data will be held on BOHS's secure virtual server with password protected access provided only to members of the research team, and will be reviewed annually. As agreed at the Research Governance Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025, and in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office Principles and Grounds for Processing<sup>2</sup>, anonymised data can be retained indefinitely unless there is some other factor such as a condition laid down by a participant or partner. The intention is therefore to retain the Isocyanates data indefinitely.

## **Data Availability**

Information derived from the data may be shared by BOHS in the form of publication and/or supporting pooled data tables for the purposes of not-for-profit research to academics, research, scientific and policy organisations based in the UK and by recognised international occupational health research and policy bodies.

The raw anonymous data may also be shared according to our Data Availability principles as follows.

- If BOHS received requests from organisations, the anonymous data would be made available to not-for-profit, legitimate research institutions only.
- Each request to access the anonymous data would be brought to the Research Governance Committee for decision. This would ensure the request was granted only if compatible with the original terms upon which the material was shared.
- The initial communication to BOHS members must provide a statement on how the data might be shared in future and what the criteria might be.

## **Ethical Considerations**

The processing of information will be tightly governed through BOHS's research governance framework under the oversight of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene, our professional standards, technical and ethics body.

No personal data is to be exchanged as part of the research project and no personal or sensitive information will be part of this. Actual data about the client or its employees, whether or not obtained commercially in confidence, will not be provided to BOHS, as the source client data or information will not be required.

In the context of commercial confidentiality, the sharing of results for the purposes of further analysis, quality assurance, verification and improvement of a service, is not normally a breach of commercial confidentiality, where the client, site and employees are not identifiable. Indeed, most data analysis requires some sharing. Having said that, in the interests of full transparency, BOHS FOH members will be advised that it would be good practice for them to notify clients and give them the opportunity to withdraw, and a template will be provided for this purpose (available on the [BOHS Research web page](#)<sup>3</sup>).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/the-research-provisions/principles-and-grounds-for-processing/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bohs.org/information-guidance/research/>

In the alternative, the study can use information derived from the professional observations or analysis conducted by the hygienist from client data which provides a statistical description of the data without the need to share individual raw data.

Information derived from the research study will be concatenated with other information sources and any outputs published by BOHS will include information at a sufficiently high level of generalisation that the identification of client data source cannot be inferred. If raw data is shared, it will be anonymous and only made available to not-for-profit, legitimate research institutions according to our Data Availability principles.

Our aim is to obtain responses for all air tests undertaken in a 12 month period. This mass information set will not provide sufficient specificity to identify a client out of the thousands of potential users of isocyanates. The hygienist providing the information will not be identified beyond the research collection and analysis stage and therefore a client will not be identifiable by reference to the professional relationship with the occupational hygienist.

A client may wish, by expression in writing, to be associated with the study at a high level, as a supporter of it and be acknowledged in research publication for marketing and publicity purposes.

An occupational hygiene firm or professional may not (without prior written client approval) be associated or acknowledged in research publication for marketing or publicity purposes in order to protect inadvertent connections being made between a client and the member.

Participation in the study is not mandatory. The occupational hygienist can withdraw from continuing participation in the study at any time up until the submission of data. However, in later stages of the study it may not be feasible to retract information provided, as it will have been amalgamated with other information.

The consent form will be made available to all participants (Appendix 2) in advance of the interview for information. The researcher will ask for consent at the beginning of the interview, at which point the participant will be entitled to decline. As part of the consent process, the researcher will ask if the participant is happy to be recorded, and advise that the recording will be deleted once the data has been extracted and checked for quality control. Consent records will be stored securely.

## Risks

The proposal could reduce the following risks in the BOHS Risk Register:

Risk No	Risk	Cause(s)	How could this proposal reduce the risk?
2020-07	Decrease in volunteer resource	Commercial pressures, pandemic risk, reduction in Society's reputation, tighter restrictions on volunteering in company policies	Engagement with BOHS through the research project may encourage members to volunteer for other projects or activities.
2021-05	Society's influence, authority and visibility diminished	Commercial pressures, pandemic risk, reduction in Society's reputation, Tighter restrictions on volunteering in company policies	Engagement in scientific research activity should increase BOHS' influence, authority and visibility once outputs are communicated effectively.

The proposal could increase the following risks in the BOHS Risk Register:

Risk No	Risk	Cause(s)	How could this proposal increase the risk?
2020-01	<b>Data protection breach</b>	Non-compliance on data protection policy, e.g loss of laptop with accessible data	The risk would only be increased if the research team failed to follow the agreed process. No personal data or source client data is required, the data will be held securely, and data retention policy will be agreed with the Research Governance Committee.
2020-15	<b>Loss of knowledge leading to disruption of processes</b>	Lack of documentation, poor project management or service delivery	As the data will be held indefinitely, there is a risk of loss of knowledge if members of the research team are no longer involved with the project. This should be mitigated by documented methodology and data retention rules.

### Alignment with BOHS Strategy

This aligns with the [2021 – 2025 BOHS<sup>4</sup>](#) and [Faculty of Occupational Hygiene \(FOH\) Strategies<sup>5</sup>](#) as follows:

- To position BOHS as the key scientific and professional body influencing change towards a healthier working environment. (BOHS Strategic Aim)
- BOHS seen as responsive to critical contemporary issues, but a future-focused organisation, anticipating new challenges (BOHS Strategic Outcome)
- As a scientific body we should
  - Value independent, evidence-based, disciplined scientific endeavours
  - Recognise science as a collective and interdisciplinary endeavour, which progresses through rigorous but respectful critique and challenge
  - Promote understanding of the findings of scientific research and promote and support the search for answers where scientific evidence is lacking (BOHS Operating Principles)
- To develop and enhance the technical and scientific base of the Society by investigating partnerships to provide research and technical insights and to share the benefits with members (FOH Strategic Aim 5)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bohs.org/bohs-strategy-2021-2025-final-version-2/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bohs.org/foh-strategy-2021-2025-final-version/>



## **Timetable**

The pilot interview took place on 3 November. This enabled the researchers to finetune the interview process in preparation for the main data collection phase. Other activity is subject to approval of this proposal.

Late November/early December 2025 – communication to BOHS FOH members operating under the GAL

January to March/April 2026 – interviews and data collection

April to July 2026 – data analysis

2027 – publication

As previously mentioned, the period of time required for data collection is an estimate at this stage as it will depend on the number of FOH members who agree to participate and the type of GAL usage, and must also take account of the availability of the researcher.

## **Research Team and Resources**

- Chief Investigators: Graham Newport, BOHS Responsible Person for the Group Authority Licence and Chris Keen, HSE Principal Occupational Hygienist and BOHS FOH Committee Member
- Researcher: Otini Aduku, BOHS Research Intern
- Research Coordinator: Roz Phillips, BOHS Technical Publications Manager
- Regulatory Coordinator: Kevin Bampton, BOHS CEO

The research team comprises three Head Office staff, one volunteer and a research intern. Costs relating to the intern have been approved by the BOHS CEO.

## Appendix 1

### Method Statement – How to conduct a BOHS research project

November 2025

This aligns with the [2021 – 2025 BOHS<sup>1</sup>](#) and [Faculty of Occupational Hygiene \(FOH\) Strategies<sup>2</sup>](#) as follows:

- To position BOHS as the key scientific and professional body influencing change towards a healthier working environment. (BOHS Strategic Aim)
- BOHS seen as responsive to critical contemporary issues, but a future-focused organisation, anticipating new challenges (BOHS Strategic Outcome)
- As a scientific body we should
  - Value independent, evidence-based, disciplined scientific endeavours
  - Recognise science as a collective and interdisciplinary endeavour, which progresses through rigorous but respectful critique and challenge
  - Promote understanding of the findings of scientific research and promote and support the search for answers where scientific evidence is lacking (BOHS Operating Principles)
- To develop and enhance the technical and scientific base of the Society by investigating partnerships to provide research and technical insights and to share the benefits with members (FOH Strategic Aim 5)

This statement outlines the process that should normally be followed to conduct a BOHS research project. It should be read in conjunction with the BOHS Research Governance Framework. It is based on the process used for the Isocyanates research project so some aspects e.g. method of acquiring data may vary depending on the project.

The governance responsibility lies with the BOHS Research Governance Committee who will convene, operate and report as outlined in the BOHS Research Governance Framework.

#### Stage 1 Preliminary business case

1. Outline business case with project purpose, benefits, scope, timeframe, cost and resource requirements.
2. Discuss with relevant Faculty Registrar and CEO whether a) the project is a priority and merits investigation with regard to the Strategies of the Society or the Faculties or in line with an annual Presidential theme, and b) the Society has adequate resources to manage and deliver the project (see Research Governance Framework for more detail on this). If the answers are “yes”, progress to Stage 2.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bohs.org/bohs-strategy-2021-2025-final-version-2/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bohs.org/foh-strategy-2021-2025-final-version/>

## Stage 2 Proposal

3. Assemble (provisionally) research team to include at least one Chief Investigator (person who takes overall responsibility for the design, conduct and reporting of a study), at least one Researcher (person who conducts the study), Research Coordinator (person who provides specific administrative and project management support), Regulatory Coordinator (person who manages the regulatory risk relating to the project, providing input on regulatory matters and ensuring regulatory compliance) and representatives of the Employing Organisation and Funder (if not BOHS). Bigger projects may also include an Investigator who is responsible, individually or as leader of the researchers at a site, for the conduct of a study at that site. All members of the team should have a copy of the Research Governance Framework.
4. Chief Investigator(s): Draft detailed proposal. There is no prescribed format for research proposals or reports, to reflect the fact that structures may vary. However, due regard for the Research Governance Framework and good practice in ethical and scientific reporting should inform proposals. The Research Governance Committee may request to see the draft communication to BOHS members as part of the proposal.
5. Chief Investigator(s): Submit detailed proposal to Research Governance Committee for approval (unanimous consent required to go ahead). Attend committee meeting to answer questions and receive feedback.

If consent granted:

## Stage 3 Preparation

6. Research Coordinator: Create team folder in Microsoft Teams for research team.
7. Chief Investigator(s)/Research Coordinator: Agree data collection requirements for database and set up blank spreadsheet, password-protected, in the Teams folder.  
[SIC 2007 Indexes for reference<sup>3</sup>](#).
8. Chief Investigator(s)/Regulatory Coordinator/Research Coordinator: Draft template letter and BOHS/BOHS member participation agreement (including BOHS member consent form) for consultant to share with client as needed.
9. Research Coordinator: Draft communication to BOHS members (if not already produced). This will include the BOHS/BOHS member participation agreement, and provide access to the consent form, the template letter for clients and the Research Governance Framework.
10. Research Coordinator or others: Identify pilot interviewee(s).
11. Research Coordinator: Finalise schedule to include confirmation of availability of Principal Researcher(s), Sub-Investigator(s) and pilot interviewee(s).
12. Chief Investigator(s) to provide Investigator(s) (where appropriate) and Researcher(s) with sufficient information, instruction and training to allow the appropriate collection and recording of data.
13. Researcher with support from Chief Investigator: Conduct pilot interview(s), collate feedback and make any necessary adjustments.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007/sic2007indexes.pdf>

#### **Stage 4 Launch and communication**

14. Research Coordinator: Upload template letter and BOHS/BOHS member participation agreement (including BOHS member consent form) to [BOHS Research web page](#)<sup>4</sup>.
15. Research Team and Head Office: Launch project, perhaps with webinar or conference session to engage BOHS members.
16. Research Coordinator: Finalise and distribute communication to BOHS members.
17. Researcher: Contact BOHS members to arrange interviews. First appointment slot offered should be at least 28 days after communication to members goes out.

#### **Stage 5 Data collection**

18. Researcher(s): Using the questions in the consent form, ask for consent at beginning of interview (BOHS member is entitled to decline). As part of the consent process, ask if the interviewee is happy to be recorded, and advise that the recording will be deleted once the data has been extracted and checked for quality control. Consent must be recorded and consent records stored securely. It is essential that individuals cannot be matched to data in the main database so consent records must not include the sample reference number or any other reference used in the main database.
19. Researcher(s): Conduct interviews via MS Teams with BOHS members, recording the interviews and populating a blank spreadsheet during the interview. Add more dropdown options in spreadsheet as necessary (with support from Research Coordinator). Follow-up or extended interviews may be needed in some cases. For quality control purposes, during each interview share screen so that BOHS member can check the data has been entered correctly.
20. Researcher/Research Coordinator: If a BOHS member would prefer to complete the spreadsheet separately, or is unavailable for interview, send blank copy of spreadsheet and consent form by email for electronic completion and signature, then add the data to the master spreadsheet.
21. Research Team: It is essential to ensure data security. Members of the team who are not BOHS employees or not using a BOHS computer must not download data to their computer, and any paper-based data should be handled carefully and securely disposed of.
22. Researcher: After each interview, check any immediate queries with the Chief Investigator, before cutting and pasting the data into the master spreadsheet. Highlight new entries.
23. Chief Investigator: once a month, check new entries in the database and confirm all ok to Researcher who will then remove highlighting.
24. Researcher/Research Coordinator: Manually delete recordings once relevant data has been added to the database and the Chief Investigator has checked it.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bohs.org/information-guidance/research/>

## Stage 6 Data analysis and reporting

25. Data analysis will vary depending upon specific project aims and the nature of the available data. Chief Investigator(s) to provide Investigator(s) (where appropriate) and Researcher(s) with sufficient information, instruction and training to allow the appropriate analysis and benchmarking of data. Information should be presented in a format understandable to the relevant audience.

*Annals'* author guidelines state:

*The quality of the data and analysis must always be good enough to justify the inferences and conclusions drawn. Particular attention should be given to design of sampling surveys, which should be planned using modern statistical principles, and to the treatment of results below the limit of detection ([see this page](#)<sup>5</sup>). Caution is advised with respect to the presentation and analysis of real-time data, as these time series data are not statistically independent.*

26. Researcher: Analyse results and produce report of outputs.
27. Research Coordinator: Check raw data and outputs for errors. The main funder typically has a key role in scientific quality assurance, so where the funding is not from BOHS, the representative of the Funder should be involved.
28. Regulatory Coordinator: Check report from regulatory perspective.
29. Researcher: Submit report on outputs to Chief Investigator for review and approval.
30. Chief Investigator(s): Report to Research Governance Committee as required in the Research Governance Framework section 10.5.
31. Research Team: Provide an annual report for participants which updates them on developments with the data and provides benchmarking information.
32. Research Team: Write research article for consideration for publication. One option will be to submit to a peer-reviewed scientific journal, such as *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*. Note that peer-reviewed journals will require their guidelines to be followed and normally ask for the inclusion of a [Data Availability Statement](#)<sup>6</sup>. BOHS data availability principles are as follows:

### Data Availability

Information derived from the data may be shared by BOHS in the form of publication and/or supporting pooled data tables for the purposes of not-for-profit research to academics, research, scientific and policy organisations based in the UK and by recognised international occupational health research and policy bodies.

The raw anonymous data may also be shared according to our Data Availability principles as follows.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1093/annhyg/mep099>

<sup>6</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/annweh/pages/author-guidelines#section-6>

- If BOHS received requests from organisations, the anonymous data would be made available to not-for-profit, legitimate research institutions only.
- Each request to access the anonymous data would be brought to the Research Governance Committee for decision. This would ensure the request was granted only if compatible with the original terms upon which the material was shared.
- The initial communication to BOHS members must provide a statement on how the data might be shared in future and what the criteria might be.

In the event that raw data is shared with a third party, BOHS may advise the third party as follows: "The initial check after the BOHS entry was made by the supplier before it was anonymised to prevent individuals being identified. This means that the supplied data are assumed to have been validated before being passed on to BOHS."

### **Stage 7 Data retention**

33. The database will be securely stored as a password-protected file in a private MS Teams group that is part of MS 365 Sharepoint (cloud-hosted). The file will be backed up regularly according to MS 365 policy.
34. Data collected in the course of research must be retained for the applicable period as outlined by the Information Commissioner's Office and reviewed regularly. This is to allow further analysis by the original or other research teams subject to consent, and to support monitoring by regulatory and other authorities. In principle anonymised data can be retained indefinitely (unless there is some other factor such as a condition laid down by a participant or partner).
35. Research Coordinator: Advise IT support of retention rules. Ask them to arrange automated annual reminders until the end of the retention period, emailed to [admin@bohs.org](mailto:admin@bohs.org) and the Research Coordinator's email address, and posted as an update in the Teams group under "General".

## Further reading

### Data management and reporting

Information Commissioner's Office

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/the-research-provisions/what-is-research-related-processing/>

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/data-protection-principles/a-guide-to-the-data-protection-principles/>

ONS Data Principles

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/datastrategy/dataprinciples>

OECD Frascati manual

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/frascati-manual-2015\\_9789264239012-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/frascati-manual-2015_9789264239012-en.html)

(ICO states that "the OECD's Frascati manual provides an internationally recognised definition of research and development. It also provides guidelines for collecting and reporting data.")

WHO Data Design Principles

<https://data.who.int/about/datadot/data-design-principles>

### Data availability and citation

*Annals of Work Exposures and Health* author guidelines

<https://academic.oup.com/annweh/pages/author-guidelines#section-6>

OUP guidance on research data

<https://academic.oup.com/pages/open-research/research-data>

Force 11 Data Citation Principles

<https://force11.org/info/joint-declaration-of-data-citation-principles-final/>

### Publication/research ethics and author guidelines

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines on ethical oversight

<https://publicationethics.org/guidance?f%5B0%5D=topics%3A23>

UKRI Good Research Resource Hub

<https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/>

*Annals of Work Exposures and Health* author guidelines

<https://academic.oup.com/annweh/pages/author-guidelines>

### BOHS governance

<https://www.bohs.org/information-guidance/research/>

<https://www.bohs.org/about-us/governance/>

## Appendix 2

### CONSENT FORM

Isocyanate exposures research study

BOHS Chief Investigators: Graham Newport and Chris Keen

BOHS Researcher: Otini Aduku

#### PARTICIPATION IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY IS VOLUNTARY

I have read and understood the study information dated [DD/MM/YY], or it has been read to me. YES / NO

I have been able to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. YES / NO

I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and that I can withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason. YES / NO

I agree to the interview being recorded. YES / NO

(Note: the recording is to aid the researcher and will be deleted once the data has been extracted and checked for quality control.)

I agree to make reasonable attempts to secure client written permission for use of data provided as responses to the study. YES / NO

I affirm that there are no contractual confidentiality restrictions that I am aware of which prevent me from sharing this data. YES / NO

I understand that the information I provide will be used for the purposes of BOHS compiling a publishable research report and that the information about my participation will be anonymised. YES / NO

I understand that any personal information that can identify me will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone other than the research team. YES / NO

I give permission for the (anonymised) information I provide to be deposited in a data archive so that it may be used for future research. YES / NO

Please retain a copy of this consent form.

Participant name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For information, please contact Roz Phillips, Research Coordinator, at [roz.phillips@bohs.org](mailto:roz.phillips@bohs.org)