

# The Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS)








*This leaflet gives general information about The Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS) and its*

*role in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI). EMAS is an integral part of HSENI and is staffed by medical specialists who aim to give expert advice on medical matters relating to work to a wide range of organisations and individuals. These include employers, employees and their representative organisations, District Council Environmental Health Officers and health care professionals. Within HSENI advice is given across the entire organisation.*

Occupational health has as its aims the prevention of ill health caused by work and the promotion of good health by:

-  Assessing the effect of work on the health of an individual or groups of individuals;
-  Advising on the effect of health on an individual's work capacity; and
-  Supporting health promotion activities.





## The Legal Position

EMAS doctors have the same legal powers as all other inspectors appointed under the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 for workplaces where HSENI is the enforcing authority. As well as giving advice where appropriate they have a responsibility to ensure that employers and others comply with the legal requirements of the Order and its associated Regulations including the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992.

Advice can be provided regarding any work premises.

## What EMAS does

EMAS staff provide an expert, independent and consistent service to a wide range of people and organisations by:

-  Investigating ill health reports received from employers under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (RIDDOR);
-  Helping HSENI inspectors and District Council Environmental Health Officers to make sure that people comply with health and safety law. This is an important part of its statutory duties;
-  Assessing and monitoring First Aid at Work training organisations;
-  Investigating complaints and concerns of ill health raised by

employers, employees, trade unions, members of the public and other health care professionals;

- Providing advice at the workplace to employers, employees and trade unions;
- Providing expert advice to doctors and nurses, in general practice and occupational health; and
- Providing support for HSENI's occupational health activities.

#### What EMAS does not do

EMAS staff do not:

- Provide medical treatment, but do advise family doctors and hospital staff on work-related health problems;
- Provide an occupational health service for organisations. Information on availability of local occupational health services can be given;
- Advise on nuisance problems arising from work activities: these are dealt with by District Council Environmental Health Departments;
- Provide rehabilitation for people with disabilities;
- Conduct most statutory medical examinations. These are done by doctors appointed by HSENI under the specific regulations.

#### How EMAS can help you?

If you are an employer, EMAS can advise you on work-related matters affecting the health of your employees. Regulation 6 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 requires you to select competent persons to help you in managing health and safety. EMAS can assist you to find someone to help you with these duties but will not normally do the work on your behalf.

If you are an employee, or if you are seeking work, or training for work, EMAS can give you advice on health in relation to employment. You may also ask for help from your trade union or employee representative or family doctor. If you are unable to resolve the problem you can contact HSENI or the Environmental Health Officer at your local District Council.

Health professionals who may need advice about:

- Workplace risks to health; or
  - Fitness for work in their patients
- may contact EMAS.





## How you can contact EMAS

EMAS is located at:

Health and Safety Executive for  
Northern Ireland  
83 Ladas Drive  
Belfast  
BT6 9FR  
Tel: 028 90 542122  
Fax: 028 90 546801  
e-mail: [emas.hseni@detini.gov.uk](mailto:emas.hseni@detini.gov.uk)

The address of EMAS is printed on the approved poster and leaflet which all employers are required to display and make accessible to their employees under the Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991.

HSENI home page on the  
World Wide Web:  
<http://www.hse-ni.org.uk>

## Further information

If you wish to enquire about rehabilitation please contact the Disablement Advisory Service at your local Jobcentre. Their Headquarters office can be contacted on  
Tel: 028 90 257472.

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## Customer Service Complaints Procedure

***Should you have any concerns about the service you have received please bring it to the immediate attention of EMAS. If, on the***

***other hand, you wish to make a formal complaint please follow the steps detailed below:***

***To make a formal complaint you should provide written details of your concern to Mr Dermot Breen - Deputy Chief Executive, HSENI.***

***He will acknowledge your letter within 2 working days and arrange for your case to be examined and reply to you within 10 working days.***

***If you then feel that your concern has not been satisfactorily dealt with you can write to the Chief Executive of HSENI. He will acknowledge your letter within 2 working days and provide a full reply within 10 working days.***

***If you still feel dissatisfied you may ask a Member of the Local Assembly or Member of Parliament to refer your complaint of maladministration to the Assembly Ombudsman for Northern Ireland who is independent of Government, or you can contact the Ombudsman directly. The Ombudsman can be contacted:-***

***In person:*** The Assembly  
Ombudsman's Office  
Progressive House  
33 Wellington Place  
Belfast BT1 6HN

***By letter:*** The Assembly  
Ombudsman  
Freepost  
Belfast BT1 6BR

Tel: 028 9023 3821  
or  
Freephone 0800 343424

***The Ombudsman normally expects you to have fully pursued our own service complaints procedure before raising the matter with him/her.***