UKHSA Future of the Health Protection System (FHPS) Call for Evidence: Member Template

**Introduction:**  
Welcome to the CIEH template for contributing to the **UKHSA Future of the Health Protection System Call for Evidence**. This template is designed to help you easily structure your responses. Please click [**here**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mRRO7jVKLkutR188-d6GZjic0PLRiRVAja3ETtlqlPVUNTdKUU1JR0pOVlJRWFpZUFNWNU9NUUIyUiQlQCN0PWcu) to access the official consultation form.

**Instructions:**  
Use the headings below to structure your responses, focusing on areas relevant to your work. You do not need to address every individual question; rather, share your experiences broadly in each section. For each key heading, we provide prompts to help you cover important aspects derived from the subsets of questions. Please feel free to skip any questions which are not relevant.

**1. Roles and responsibilities (4 question sets)**

Provide input on role clarity and challenges related to health protection in your area. You may wish to consider:

* Are roles and responsibilities clearly defined within your organisation or across the broader system? Include examples of formal agreements like MOUs or informal practices that help clarify roles.
* Does limited capacity impact role clarity or lead to a reactive focus rather than proactive prevention?
* Are there formal meetings or mechanisms to support coordination? Consider geographic size, organisational turnover, and the effectiveness of induction processes for new staff in health protection roles.
* Would better digital tools or shared data platforms help clarify roles and enhance cross-sector communication?
* Was there effective coordination across government departments to ensure that EH resources were appropriately prioritised? Reflect on the ad hoc nature of coordination during COVID-19 and whether a more formalised approach could improve the effectiveness of EH roles.
* Mention how the Environmental Health workforce had to prioritise COVID-19-related responsibilities over other demands. Consider whether clearer guidance or established coordination structures could assist in balancing responsibilities during emergencies.

**2. Roles and responsibilities – best practice (2 question sets)**

Share successful examples of leadership and governance arrangements that have enhanced health protection efforts in your area. You may wish to consider:

* How have leadership models or governance frameworks supported effective system-wide decision-making?
* Include examples of agreements, joint working arrangements, or local governance measures that improved role clarity.
* How might these best practices be applied to other regions or areas to achieve similar successes?

**3. Health protection legislation (1 question set)**

Discuss challenges with the current legislative framework, gaps you’ve experienced, and suggestions for improvement. You may wish to consider:

* Are there outdated or conflicting regulations that impact your health protection work? Provide specific examples.
* Does the current legislative framework support proactive prevention, or are there factors that push towards reactivity?
* Could legislative updates clarify roles and improve system-wide accountability? Suggest any changes that could support digital integration or resource allocation.
* Consider referencing Section 6 (Border Health Security) where applicable, especially in terms of legal frameworks that impact legislative frameworks within border health security.

**4. Health protection incidents and outbreak response (9 question sets)**

Outline your experience with incident preparedness and response, accountability measures, and cross-sector partnerships. You may wish to consider:

* Are there gaps in roles and responsibilities during incident response, particularly due to limited capacity?
* What formal mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability during health protection incidents? How effective are these arrangements?
* Highlight examples of cross-sector collaboration in incident response. Discuss whether capacity or system constraints have impacted the effectiveness of these partnerships.
* Would better digital systems improve your ability to prepare for and respond to incidents effectively?
* Reflect on the role of the Environmental Health workforce during national emergencies (e.g., pandemic response, contact tracing, business compliance). How did the local EH network contribute, and what were the challenges?
* Consider whether there was sufficient cross-government coordination during emergencies. The example of MHCLG coordinating EH resources during COVID can be used to highlight the need for formal, sustained coordination to manage competing pressures.
* Suggest that cross-government coordination could be normalised to help anticipate future demands on EH and prioritise effectively.

**5. Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) (17 question sets)**

Address any issues with community IPC, examples of best practice, and suggestions for improving integration and resource allocation. You may wish to consider:

* Are there areas where roles and responsibilities for community IPC are unclear? How does this impact service delivery?
* Who commissions and delivers community IPC services in your area? Are there gaps in commissioning, resourcing, or equipment provision?
* What are the main challenges in delivering IPC services (e.g., recruitment, training, capacity)? Include examples of best practices and how cross-sector partnerships have supported IPC delivery.
* Could community IPC be better integrated across the system, perhaps through pooling resources or better coordination with other services?

**6. Border health security (Port Health) (3 question sets)**

Highlight any challenges with roles, responsibilities, and legislation related to border health security (port health). You may wish to consider:

* Are there areas where roles and responsibilities for port health security are unclear?
* Does the existing legislation enable you to address current challenges in border and port health? Are there outdated elements that hinder your work?
* Does the current communication system between UKHSA and Port Health Authorities work effectively to meet the UK's obligations under the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005?
* Consider referencing Section 3 (Health Protection Legislation) where applicable, especially in terms of legal frameworks that impact communication and roles within border health security.

**7. Miscellaneous (4 question sets)**

Share any additional information or thoughts you would like to include:

* Are there any capacity constraints or systemic issues that were not covered in previous sections but impact your work?
* Any further examples of successful practices, or opportunities for improvement within the health protection system that you would like to highlight.
* Any other comments or reflections that would contribute to the overall call for evidence.