The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the independent body responsible for regulating workplace health and safety in Great Britain. We act in the public interest to reduce work-related death, serious injury and ill health across Great Britain’s workplaces.

Why should you join HSE as an economist?

“Working at HSE is an ideal post for any assistant economist; you are quickly exposed to a significant degree of responsibility and the work was always really interesting and challenging. Despite the fact that this was my first post in the GES, I relied heavily on examples of work I had undertaken at HSE to secure my first promotion to a Grade 7 role in BIS. Not only that, but I have made some lasting friendships with many of the people that I worked with during my time there.”

Tim Harper
(HSE Assistant Economist, from 2010 to 2012, currently Head of Smart Energy Management and Analysis at BEIS)

We are a relatively small team (currently 7 economists), though we often work closely with economists in other departments and agencies. We also work closely with other analysts: statisticians, social researchers and psychologists, and policy and operational colleagues.

Because we are a small team, there will be many opportunities for you to take on responsibility and develop your skills set. This exposure to high-level work, other analytical disciplines and policy colleagues will help form a solid basis for a career as a government economist.

Our work includes impact assessments of policy proposals, post-implementation evaluation of policies, and a wide range of research projects to improve our knowledge base. A key part of this work is the economic valuation of the impacts of work-related injuries and ill health. We are engaged in discussions with economists across government to improve practices for valuing life and health impacts.

We place a high emphasis on learning and development, and assistant economists are given priority in our training budget. In particular, we value making sure that we keep abreast of the latest thinking in economics. This bears out in our high quality work: we are consistently near the top of the Regulatory Policy Committee’s impact assessment ‘league tables’, proactively exploring the potential of behavioural economics to influence policymaking and undertaking research on emerging non-market valuation techniques.

What questions do HSE economists help to answer?

A benefit of being an Economist at HSE is the sheer variety of work you are exposed to.
Here are a few examples of the questions we help to answer:

- How can we value quality of life and welfare costs associated with workplace injuries and illnesses, including long-latency diseases such as cancer, using the latest non-market valuation techniques?
- What are the incentives that businesses and workers face to comply with health and safety regulations?
- What are the costs and benefits of changes in health and safety regulations?
- What are the effects of the business cycle on health and safety outcomes?
- What are the economic impacts of keeping hazardous installations (such as power plants, chemical factories, and offshore installations) and the people that work in them safe?

**Training and Development**

HSE is committed to developing your technical economic knowledge as well as your wider leadership skills. In this small team you will be exposed to high-profile work from the beginning and given opportunities for you to take on leadership responsibilities.

Training on offer:

- Formal training courses – both economic and non-economic;
- Access to coaching and guidance from experienced professionals;
- Opportunities to attend economic briefings and conferences;
- Personal development plan with your line manager

**Pay, other benefits and location**

The starting salary for an Assistant Economist at HSE is £30,288. There is also an entitlement to 25 days annual leave and the potential for flexible working arrangements.

All economists are based at HSE’s head office in Bootle, Liverpool, just 10 minutes from Liverpool City Centre. The office has a multi-storey car park, on-site gym, a restaurant and coffee shop, and bicycle storage facilities.

**Find out more**

For further information, please contact HSE’s Chief Economist, Shaun Donaghy, at Shaun.Donaghy@hse.gov.uk

You can also visit our website: [http://www.hse.gov.uk/economics/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/economics/index.htm).