

IIAC selected a sub-group of its members, the Occupational Deafness Working Group (ODWG) to carry forward the review of occupational deafness. The ODWG undertook a consultation exercise from August to November 1998, to gather information about occupations not currently on the prescribed list but which might meet the terms of prescription. The occupations listed from the consultation exercise were referred to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), to see whether further scientific information was available. The ODWG received the HSE report in September 1999.

IIAC published its review of Occupational Deafness (Command Paper CM5672) in November 2002. Paragraphs 88-92 relate to the consultation exercise carried out in August to November 1998. Paragraph 91 lists the occupations considered.

Paragraph 92 begins with the words:

"Because no evidence was put forward indicating the doses of noise to which workers in these jobs were generally exposed" .

This wording did not reflect that IIAC had, in fact, given due consideration to the HSE report received in September 1999, as well as other evidence received in the consultation exercise.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Council at its meeting on 3 July 2003, with copies of the HSE report available to all members. The Council confirmed its previous decision as to which occupations it should recommend for prescription. However the Council has requested the HSE to look again at certain occupations, and to report back with any additional information that may have become available in the intervening period.