

UPDATE ON HEALTHY WORKPLACE FRAMEWORK

The Department of Health is currently in the process of updating content for the Healthy Workplace Framework, to take account of the new challenges of remote working in addition to the changes that have taken place in the workplace since the start of the pandemic.

This last year has posed challenges for everyone, and like many other projects the work on the Healthy Workplace Framework was deferred due to COVID-19 outbreak, according to Biddy O'Neill, National Project Lead with the Health and Wellbeing Programme at the Department of Health.

Having revisited the framework, which forms part of the Department's Health and Wellbeing Programme, she said that they are now in the process of updating content. "Many workplaces have reported that COVID-19 placed a spotlight on wellbeing and we hope that the new framework will give strategic direction and guidance to all organisations," she added.

"One of our priorities this is to develop the website with tools and resources to support workplaces in the process of becoming a 'Healthy Workplace' and creating a platform to share case studies. We continue to be supported by the Institute of Public Health in finalising the framework, and we will announce a launch date in due course."

Meanwhile, the Health Research Board is also currently completing a

literature review on Wellbeing and Culture, which is due to be completed later this year.

CONSULTATION REPORT

First published in April 2019, the consultation report on developing a Healthy Workplace Framework was prepared for the Department of Health by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH).

The Institute then facilitated the online consultation and hosted events in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Sligo, and invited stakeholders to share their views and experiences on creating a healthy workplace.

The consultation report was considered by the Department to inform the development of the Healthy Workplace Framework, which was expected to be published in late 2019 or in early 2020. However, work on the framework has had to be deferred until now, due to the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020.

Consultation on the development of a Healthy Workplaces Framework for Ireland

A report prepared for the Department of Health by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland



Consultation Report



To read the consultation report, prepared by the IPH for the Dept of Health, visit bit.ly/3tqqsG7 and bit.ly/3oGoEFn for further information from three research papers.

The framework aims to recognise and enhance existing initiatives, to facilitate the sharing of experience and learning, and also to provide the necessary supports and tools for organisations or companies who haven't yet developed their own resources.

The framework, which is under the umbrella of Healthy Ireland, is intended to provide a supportive, flexible, evidence-based structure that can be applied across all workplaces in Ireland regardless of their sector or size. The IPH is continuing to support the Department in the areas of policy design, implementation and monitoring.



For further information on the 'Keep Well Campaign', visit the Healthy Ireland website. The HSE has also compiled a 12-month calendar of events for all health and wellbeing activities.