

# Cross Government Report on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness

November 2024 to November 2025





# Contents

<b>1) Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2) Purpose</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3) Members of the Group</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4) Statistical Evidence</b>	<b>9</b>
CO Mortality Data	9
HSE – Number of Flammable Gas Incidents reportable under RIDDOR 11(1)	11
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) – Number of Homes with CO Alarms	13
<b>5) Raising CO Awareness</b>	<b>14</b>
Care Quality Commission (CQC)	14
Health & Safety Executive (HSE)	14
HSE Northern Ireland	17
The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	19
Welsh Government	21
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) / Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC)	21
Public Health Wales	21
<b>6) Supporting Professionals</b>	<b>22</b>
Public Health Wales	22
UKHSA / National Poisons Information Service (NPIS)	22
UKHSA	22
<b>7) Legislation and Securing Justice</b>	<b>25</b>
HSE and HSENI – Enforcement Action	25
Gas Safe Register	25
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) – Awaab’s Law	27
Building Safety Regulator (BSR)	27
<b>8) Research</b>	<b>28</b>
UKHSA	28
<b>9) Parliamentary Activity</b>	<b>29</b>

Parliamentary Questions and Answers	29
Gas Safety Week 2025 – Parliamentary Reception	30
Conclusion	31



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government



Department for  
Business & Trade



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



Home Office



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



UK Health  
Security  
Agency



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# 1) Introduction

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is a serious and preventable form of poisoning. The health effects from CO exposure range from headaches, dizziness, and cognitive impairments at low-levels, and can cause serious health problems and even death at high levels. CO is produced from the burning of any carbon-based fuel such as mains gas, liquefied petroleum gas, oil, coal, coke fuel, and wood, which are used in many household appliances.

CO poisoning can occur when an appliance has been incorrectly fitted or used, badly repaired or poorly maintained. It can also occur if flues, chimneys, or vents are blocked. There are over 23 million households connected to the gas grid across the UK, with 73% using mains gas as their only heating source and many others using oil and solid fuel appliances<sup>1</sup>.

Over 15 million households have CO alarms installed in England. Following consultation, the Government has further extended the requirements for CO alarms in England.

From 1 October 2022, CO alarms are required in all rented homes in rooms containing a combustion appliance (excluding gas cookers).

Gas safety, and more broadly CO awareness, is a cross-government issue with several government departments, the devolved administrations and other governmental bodies having an interest. This report sets out the work carried out by individual departments as well as cooperative and collaborative initiatives undertaken to improve gas safety and CO awareness.

---

<sup>1</sup> According to 2021 Census Data collected in the England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Scotland 2022 census data: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-central-heating-2021-census/>

## 2) Purpose

The Cross-Government Group was established to ensure government departments and executive bodies maintain a joined-up approach to improving gas safety and reducing CO poisoning risks, leading to reduced fatalities and ill-health.

The Group's activities include:

- sharing knowledge on gas safety and CO risk,
- exploring innovative ways of delivering the necessary improvements in CO-awareness and reducing risks from gas and other fossil fuels; and
- reviewing industry progress in adopting a more pro-active, co-ordinated approach to improving understanding of gas safety issues generally.

The purpose of this report is to explain the collective work of government to improve gas safety and tackle the risks of CO from all fuels.

### 3) Members of the Group

- Building Safety Regulator (BSR)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Department for Business and Trade (DBT)
- Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS)
- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)
- Home Office
- Marine Accident and Investigation Branch (MAIB)
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- \*Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)
- Public Health Scotland (PHS)
- Public Health Wales (PHW)
- Scottish Government
- \*\*UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- Welsh Government

\*Formerly – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

\*\*Formerly – Public Health England (PHE)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MHCLG</u></b></p> <p>Making sure that people are safe and feel safe in their homes through a framework of rental &amp; building safety regulations and guidance that is both effective and proportionate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>UKHSA</u></b></p> <p>Provides advice &amp; raises public awareness of CO. Supports health professionals via the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) and smoking in pregnancy guidance. Produces the 'Adverse Weather and Health Plan' &amp; carries out original clinical research.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Home Office</u></b></p> <p>Raises awareness of fire safety &amp; is the sponsoring Department of Fire and Rescue Services, supports them in their delivery of fire safety at the local level both in the home and workplace.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MAIB</u></b></p> <p>The MAIB investigates marine accidents including CO poisoning involving UK vessels worldwide and all vessels in UK territorial waters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>DHSC</u></b></p> <p>Supporting ministers in leading the nation's health and social care to help people live more independent, healthy lives.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PHS</u></b></p> <p>Protecting the people of Scotland from infectious and environmental hazards by providing advice, support, and information.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) – DBT</u></b></p> <p>Regulating the product safety framework for consumer goods &amp; enforcing product safety relating to gas appliances through the Gas Appliances (Enforcement) and Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2018 (enforcing EU Regulation 2016/426 &amp; the Gas Appliance (Safety) Regulations 1995.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Public Health Wales (PHW)</u></b></p> <p>Public Health Wales (PHW) Works towards healthier future for Wales through the delivery of six strategic priorities. Organisational priorities reflect the focus of long-term prevention, integration, collaboration &amp; involvement to drive health improvements and reduce health inequalities</p> <p>PHW protect the public from environmental hazards and threats and to inform,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Welsh Government</u></b></p> <p>Continue to support the Welsh Ministers, Building Regulations Policy Division draft changes to building regulations and guidance through Approved Documents. This includes requirements relating to fixed combustion appliances, ventilation, detection and fire safety.</p>

	<p>advocate for and mobilise actions on the wider determinants of health. These include but are not limited to access to quality education and a warm safe home, which is directly and indirectly linked to gas safety interventions, education, and information.</p>	
<p><b><u>HSE &amp; HSENI</u></b></p> <p>Regulators for workplace health and safety issues (including upstream &amp; downstream gas, fire &amp; explosion), Gas Safe Register &amp; enforcement of Gas Safety Installation &amp; Use Regulations 1998.</p>	<p><b><u>OFGEM</u></b></p> <p>Protecting the interest of gas &amp; electricity consumers by promoting value for money, supervision &amp; development of market competition &amp; regulation &amp; delivery of government schemes.</p>	<p><b><u>Scottish Government</u></b></p> <p>Working through Scottish Ministers, Building Standards Division drafts the building standards &amp; associated guidance within the Technical Handbooks. This includes standards relating to fixed combustion appliances.</p>
<p><b><u>The Building Safety Regulator (BSR)</u></b></p> <p>The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) in England is responsible for keeping the safety and standards for all buildings under review and is the building control authority for higher-risk buildings.</p> <p>This includes ensuring that gas, oil, and solid fuel combustion appliances are installed according to Part J of the Building Regulations, which requires the safe installation of flues, ventilation, and air supply to prevent CO incidents.</p>	<p><b><u>Care Quality Commission (CQC)</u></b></p> <p>The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. CQC work together with the public, systems, other regulators, and providers of care to protect people, and to promote and improve the quality of care. CQC expect providers to ensure their premises and equipment, including gas appliances, are appropriately installed, used and maintained to keep people safe from harm or risk of harm.</p>	<p><b><u>Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)</u></b></p> <p>The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) play a crucial role in ensuring gas safety and CO awareness within the maritime sector. MCA provides guidance on the safe handling and storage of gases, particularly CO, which can be produced from combustion and is often present in enclosed spaces.</p>

## 4) Statistical Evidence

### CO Mortality Data

**Table 1: England and Wales – Mortality Figures 2016-2024**

Following the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) request, the ONS data on mortality from CO poisoning (deaths registered in 2024 in England and Wales) was provided to UKHSA and is now available online at [Accidental poisoning by carbon monoxide, deaths registered in England and Wales: 2024 - Office for National Statistics](#). Analysing this data, there were **around 25 deaths a year<sup>2</sup>** from accidental CO poisoning in England and Wales. UKHSA has compiled mortality statistics from the ONS for accidental poisoning from 2005-2024. Data from 2016-2024 is presented in Table 1

Number of deaths from accidental poisoning by carbon monoxide, England and Wales <sup>1,2,3</sup>										
Code	Cause	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
V01-X59	All accidental carbon monoxide poisonings	49	59	42	53	46	43	47	77	60
X47	Accidental poisoning by other gases and vapours	16	17	16	23	21	20	19	35	24
	Occurrence at home	13	11	10	17	16	14	12	23	15
	Occurrence in residential institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Occurrence at school other institution/pub admin area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Occurrence at sports/athletics area	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Occurrence on street/highway	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	3	2
	Occurrence at trade/service area	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
	Occurrence at industrial/construction area	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Occurrence on farm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Occurrence at <u>other</u> specified place	1	4	5	1	2	4	4	6	3
	Occurrence at unspecified place	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	3
V01-V99	Transport accident	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
X00-X09	Accidental exposure to smoke, fire and flames	32	40	26	29	25	22	28	39	35
<sup>1</sup> Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were selected where the underlying cause of death was accidental (ICD-10 codes V01-X59), and where the secondary cause of death was the toxic effect of carbon monoxide (ICD-10 code T58).										
<sup>2</sup> Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.										
<sup>3</sup> Deaths registered in each calendar year.										
<i>Source: Office for National Statistics</i>										

<sup>2</sup> The figure of 'around 25 deaths a year' used in this report is based on a rolling average for five years (2020-2024), for the average number of accidental poisonings by other gases and vapours (ICD-10 code X47) and where the secondary cause of death was the toxic effect of carbon monoxide (ICD-10 code T58).

**Table 2: Scotland – Mortality Figures 2016-2024**

CO deaths (ICD 10 code: x47) from the National Records of Scotland.

<b>Mortality Statistics for Accidental CO Poisoning in Scotland</b>									
<b>Year</b>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Deaths by CO Accidental Poisoning (ICD10 Code X47*)</b>	1	3	1	1	1	-	1*	-	1
<i>*This was listed in conjunction with heroine, methadone</i>									

Source: National Records of Scotland, Vital Events Reference Table 6.13. Available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/media/vejpbzvg/vital-events-reference-tables-chapter-6.xlsx>

**Table 3: Northern Ireland – Mortality Figures 2016 - 2024**

<b>Deaths from CO Poisoning, 2017 - 2024</b>									
<b>Type of CO Death</b>	<b>ICD10 Code</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Uncontrolled fire in a building or structure	X00	1	4	-	1	-	-	1	1
Exposure to controlled fire in building or structure	X02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exposure to ignition of highly flammable material	X04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exposure to other specified smoke, fire and flames	X08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exposure to unspecified smoke, fire and flames	X09	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Accidental Poisoning	X47	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Intentional Self Harm	X67/ X76	1	2	-	2	1	4	2	2
Assault by smoke, fire and flames (includes arson, cigarettes & incendiary devices)	X97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours, undetermined intent</b>	Y17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: NISRA

Deaths from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning have been defined using ICD10 code T58 and/or where CO was mentioned on the death certificate

Revision notice: 2017 figure has been revised down from 6 deaths as 1 case did not specifically mention carbon monoxide.

As a result of the review into suicide deaths registered in NI 2015-2020, one case moved from undetermined intent to intentional self-harm in 2016.

## HSE – Number of Flammable Gas Incidents reportable under RIDDOR 11(1)

**Table 4 - HSE Domestic Gas - Flammable gas incidents resulting in injury reported in Great Britain 2020/21 – 2024/25**

Since 1981, there has been a significant decrease in the number of CO fatalities related to domestic gas appliances, reported to HSE through RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations). This marked reduction in CO fatalities has been achieved by the entire gas system working together in partnership by:

- HSE overseeing delivery of the Gas Safe Register and the proactive gas inspections.
- Manufacturers learning lessons and improving the safety of appliances
- The public acting on the messages such as use of CO alarms and regular servicing of appliances

Key: (R) = Revised Data (P) = Provisional Data

Incident / Severity	Incident type	2020/21 [Note 4]	2021/22 [Note 4]	2022/23	2023/24r	2024/25p
<b>Incidents</b>	All	108	80	88	111	129
Incidents	CO poisoning	67	51	63	84	92
Incidents	Other exposure e.g. to unburnt gas	16	13	7	10	16
Incidents	Explosion/fire	25	16	18	17	21

<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Fatalities	CO poisoning	1	3	2	2	1
Fatalities	Other exposure e.g. to unburnt gas					
Fatalities	Explosion/fire	2	2	3	3	1
<b>Non-fatalities</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>169</b>
Non-fatalities	CO poisoning	88	63	85	122	133
Non-fatalities	Other exposure e.g. to unburnt gas	14	10	6	14	14
Non-fatalities	Explosion/fire	30	17	22	18	22

The table presents annual reported gas-related incidents that are notifiable under Regulation 11(1) of RIDDOR. This places a duty on certain conveyors of gas (including LPG), to notify HSE of an incident involving a fatal or major injury that has occurred because of the distribution or supply of flammable gas (mainly piped gas but also includes bottled LPG).

The statistics published are 'as reported' to HSE. When such reports are made, it is at the early stages of the incident, thus the detailed circumstances of the incident will not have been confirmed.

Key changes to the reporting system and the legal requirements for RIDDOR have occurred in recent years.

- More information and guidance about RIDDOR statistics is available at: [RIDDOR explained - HSE](#)
- General information about gas safety, including information around landlord responsibilities, tenant information, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and guidance publications is available here: [Domestic gas - HSE](#)
- Information about HSE prosecutions by legislation (including the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998) is available on the HSE Website: [HSE - Register of prosecutions and notices.](#)

## **Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) – Number of Homes with CO Alarms**

In 2024, 62% of all dwellings had a CO alarm, up from 60% in 2023. Dwellings with a solid fuel burning appliance, such as a coal fire or wood burning stove, were more likely (66%) to have a CO alarm than dwellings with no solid fuel appliance (61%).

In the owner-occupied sector, there was an increase in the proportion of dwellings with a CO detector from 58% in 2023 to 60% in 2024. Similarly, in the social rented sector, there was an increase from 69% to 75%.

From October 2015, private sector landlords have been required to install a CO alarm in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance. They were also required to ensure the alarm was working at the beginning of each new tenancy. In 2024, 52% of private rented sector dwellings with a solid fuel appliance had a CO alarm, this was lower than in 2023 (65%). In terms of tenure comparison, this was lower than in the social rented sector (82%) and owner-occupied sector (68%).

This information has been extracted from the English Housing Survey 2024 to 2025: headline findings on housing quality and energy efficiency available here: [English Housing Survey 2024 to 2025: headline findings on housing quality and energy efficiency - GOV.UK](#)

A full table of statistics regarding CO detectors is available in Annex 1.14: [Annex Tables: 2024-2025 EHS Headline Report Chapter 1 Housing Quality](#)

## 5) Raising CO Awareness

### Care Quality Commission (CQC)

In May 2025, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published an update in their adult social care provider bulletin 'Carbon Monoxide Safety in Care Homes: Guidance for Compliance and Risk Management'.

The update referenced Regulation 15 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 and the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to highlight providers duties to ensure that care equipment and/or premises with gas appliances are properly maintained and used properly to prevent harm or risk of harm to people using services.

The bulletin update also directed providers to read the Health and Safety Executive's Health and safety in care homes guidance for further information about how care providers can gain a better understanding of health and safety risks and how they can be appropriately managed.

In August 2025, CQC followed the bulletin publication up with a post on their LinkedIn page, highlighting the importance of people using services being kept safe from the risk of harm from CO gas.

CQC works with HSE to ensure the safety of care services for the people who use them. CQC's CO awareness posts were published as a result of discussions between CQC, HSE and DHSC about care providers duties under relevant legislation to keep service users safe from the risk of harm from CO poisoning.

More information is available here:

- Bulletin link: [CQC update for adult social care providers](#)
- LinkedIn post: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/care-quality-commission\\_it-is-important-that-people-who-use-services-activity-7341810887005007876-ksHA?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAB0EMx4BxqM2U-rpn1segYT0HQxzJfQNHvc](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/care-quality-commission_it-is-important-that-people-who-use-services-activity-7341810887005007876-ksHA?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAB0EMx4BxqM2U-rpn1segYT0HQxzJfQNHvc)

### Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

#### HSE – Web Engagement

The HSE Gas Pages had a successful year of engagement, with 26,150 views across pages, with an average user usefulness of 79%\*. This is just above the overall HSE website average of 76% in this time period.

**Table 5: HSE Domestic Gas Publications and Total Downloads in the 2024/25 operational year**

Publication	Document title	Downloads
L56	Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances	1,451
CAIS10	Ventilation of kitchens in catering establishments	473
INDG285	Landlords: A guide to landlords' duties	250
CAIS23	Gas safety in catering and hospitality	168
INDG238	Gas Appliances: Get them checked. Keep them safe	125
INDG428	Inspecting and maintaining or replacing buried metallic pipework carrying LPG vapour	87
CAIS12	Maintenance priorities in catering	82

\*The user usefulness rating is calculated as a percentage of the amount of users who answer "YES" to the 'Is this page useful' banner that sits at the bottom of each webpage and is something HSE consider to be a key engagement metric when analysing the success of a page or area of the website

### Gas Safe Register – Gas Safety Week 2025

The aim of the Gas Safe Register (GSR) is to protect people from unsafe gas work. This is done partly through the inspection of gas work and investigation of reports of illegal gas work. GSR also works to protect people by raising levels of public awareness of the GSR brand, gas safety issues and the dangers of CO.

Marking its fifteenth year, Gas Safety Week continues to highlight the importance of following gas safety advice, including ensuring gas appliances have been annually checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

This year's theme, *Looking after your Home, Friends and Family*, reminded the public to not only take care of their own gas safety, but encouraged ways in which they can look after and share gas safety advice with those around them.

### Coverage

The news story and broadcast day resulted in 458 pieces of coverage across radio, online, and print, along with 36,439 views on Nick Knowles' social media video. The total coverage throughout Gas Safety Week successfully brought wide reaching attention to gas safety awareness with the strong inclusion of Gas Safety Week and key safety messaging throughout.

### National highlights

“Consumers are stretched, both in terms of their finances and the number of priorities they have to juggle, our challenge remains ensuring that gas safety remains high up their list of priorities. By balancing innovation with regular market-testing of our messages and campaigns we continue to maximise our opportunities to connect with people and help them stay gas safe.”

A total of 13 national titles (three print, nine online, and one trade article) covered the research, including, The Sun, Daily Star, Daily Express, Daily Mirror, PRWeek and MSN. With an exclusive Nick Knowles interview with the Metro, which had a 38k daily circulation.



**Regional Highlights:** There were 68 regional articles, with titles including The Scotsman, Peterborough Telegraph, Burnley Express, The Southern Reporter and more.



**Broadcast highlights:** It was a great success for the broadcast day, which resulted in 26 interviews with Nick Knowles, which featured across over 40 BBC radio stations, such as BBC Radio 5 Live, Southwest and Essex. As well as other radio stations including, That's TV, Wycombe Sound and LDC Radio.



### Gas Safe Register - Winter Campaign 2024/25

The winter campaign ran from mid-January until late February, with the aim of raising brand awareness of the Gas Safe Register and the importance of using a Gas Safe registered engineer. The national mass media campaign included ads running on TV, video on-demand, radio, newspapers, magazines, and online. In addition, two PR bursts set to raise awareness of the dangers of CO.

Launched in November at the start of CO Awareness Week, the first PR burst focused on spotting the symptoms of CO exposure in pets and actionable ways to prevent CO at home. GSR partnered with Caroline Allen, Chief Vet at RSPCA who together with Gas Safe Register's, Rob Denman took part in a broadcast day and secured a Sky News TV and radio interviews. Alongside media pick up of our press release, it achieved 60 pieces of coverage.

The second burst of PR asked consumers to 'check your cold'. According to the research, January is the month when people are most prone to suffering from seasonal viruses. At the height of the cold and flu season, GSR partnered with NHS GP and TV medic, Dr Punam Krishan to raise awareness of the key differences between symptoms of CO poisoning and colds as similar symptoms can mean CO poisoning is overlooked. There were 78 pieces of coverage across the airwaves and in the press including The Sun, Daily Record, and the Mirror.

## HSE Northern Ireland

### Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month

November 2024 was the twelfth year of the Northern Ireland Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month. HSENI circulated a social media post in November 2024, captioned:



*Exposure to carbon monoxide can affect your health. Most homes and businesses use appliances that burn fuels such as gas, oil and coal, peat and wood.*

*If these appliances are not installed, maintained, and used properly, carbon monoxide (CO) can build up to dangerous and even deadly levels, particularly in poorly ventilated areas. Using kerosene heaters or charcoal grills indoors, or running a car in a garage, can also cause levels high enough to result in CO poisoning.*

The best way to protect against CO is to make sure all fuel-burning appliances are properly installed by recognised and established engineers and serviced by competent companies or individuals - at least once a year. HSENI's information leaflet provides more details including potential sources of CO, managing fuel-burning appliances and symptoms of CO poisoning to look out for: <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/.../are-you-risk-carbon-monoxide...>

This post had a reach of 434 on Facebook and 289 impressions on LinkedIn.

## **HSENI - Gas Safety Week 2024**

HSENI supported Gas Safety Week 2024 via social media with 9 posts across 4 platforms. The messages promoting gas safety included: finding Gas Safe engineers that are Gas Safe registered, symptoms of CO poisoning, Landlords legal duties, CO alarms and installing and maintaining appliances.

- Total reach on Facebook: 3407
- Total impressions on LinkedIn: 2219

With regards to the HSENI website, there were 553 downloads of the CO and gas safety publications during 2019/20. 'L56 Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances - GB ACOP approved for use in NI' was the most popular page with 214 downloads during the year - [L56 Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances - GB ACOP approved for use in NI | Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland, controlling risk together](#)

The [CO article page](#) had 1,050 page views during that year as well.

HSENI also placed the following editorial and advert in the Oct-Dec 2024 edition of Young at Heart. This is something HSENI undertake yearly, adapting the message as appropriate, but is always focused on the topic of CO.

# Watch Out for Carbon Monoxide this Winter

Heating appliances will continue to be in much more use over the winter months, so the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is reminding readers about the dangers from deadly carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas that is impossible to see, taste or smell.

If you use an appliance that burns a fossil fuel, such as gas, oil, coal, peat or wood, you may be at risk from CO poisoning.

The best protection is to make sure all fuel-burning appliances are properly installed and serviced at least once a year by a competent person.

If your home is heated using LPG or natural gas, a Gas Safe registered engineer is recommended to carry out the service.

Ensure that chimneys and flues are also inspected annually and swept, if required, by a registered chimney sweep.

Before installing a new fuel burning appliance, or relining or installing flues and chimneys for these appliances, it is a legal requirement to submit an application for building regulation approval. Contact your local council's building control department, before you start this work.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for all boilers, stoves, gas fires and solid fuel room heaters. As a back-up measure, install an audible carbon monoxide alarm, which are widely available in supermarkets and DIY stores. CO alarms have a limited life span, so if you've had one for a while, please check yours to see if it is working properly. It might be time to buy a new one.

For information contact HSENI on 0800 0320 121 or visit the 'Carbon Monoxide' topic page on the HSENI website: [www.hseni.gov.uk/topic/carbon-monoxide](http://www.hseni.gov.uk/topic/carbon-monoxide)

**PROTECT YOURSELF  
AND OTHERS FROM  
CARBON MONOXIDE**

**BY ANNUALLY  
SERVICING ALL  
BOILERS AND  
APPLIANCES\***

**CARBON MONOXIDE  
KILLS  
YOU ARE AT RISK**

Research proves that the  
Number One Cause of Death  
is through people **NOT**  
regularly and professionally  
servicing fuel-burning  
appliances



\* Some appliances may require more frequent servicing, refer to manufacturer's handbook for recommended service intervals.

**hseni**  
CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER

## The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem)

The RIIO-2 gas distribution price control, which started in April 2021 and will run until March 2026, introduced a package of measures to support consumers in vulnerable situations. As part of this, Ofgem introduced the Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA), which Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) can use to fund activities

addressing consumer vulnerability and CO safety initiatives. The VCMA was set at £60m at the time of RIIO-2 Final Determinations. In June 2023, Ofgem made a one-off decision to increase the VCMA by a further £111m to a total of £171m. The VCMA can fund activities which provide awareness of the dangers of CO and reduce the risk of harm caused by CO. Funding can also be used in some circumstances to service, repair or replace unsafe essential gas appliances, to avoid leaving a vulnerable consumer without gas if they cannot afford repairs. This can happen when the GDN must isolate and condemn the appliance following a supply interruption or as part of its emergency service role.

Ofgem are currently preparing for the RIIO3 price control, which runs from April 2026 to March 2031. Under RIIO3, Ofgem will continue to fund consumer vulnerability and CO safety programs through the Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA), now set within the wider Gas Network Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Initiatives (VCMII) governance framework. Total VCMA funding is £165 million, allocated across the GDNs based on domestic customer numbers. Of this, 25% is ringfenced for collaborative GDN projects, and a further 3% for collaboration with other utilities across energy, water and telecoms.

Some activities previously funded through the VCMA in RIIO-GD2 are now classed as business-as-usual (BAU) and will instead be funded through baseline allowances in RIIO-3. This shift is intended to embed essential vulnerability and CO safety work into core GDN operations, give networks greater certainty for long-term planning, and ensure the VCMA is focused on more targeted or emerging consumer needs.

Ofgem expects the GDNs to develop a portfolio of activities through stakeholder engagement and in conjunction with third party organisations, to ensure efficient and effective delivery. Ofgem also introduced annual reporting metrics and the requirement for the GDNs, to host an annual showcase event. This annual event will be used to present what the GDNs have done to benefit consumers in vulnerable situations and improve CO safety and awareness in the previous year. For RIIO-3 Reporting requirements have been strengthened. GDNs will publish individual and joint Annual Consumer Vulnerability Reports using a standardised template, alongside the Annual Showcase Event being retained.

The GDNs published annual reports about their projects can be found at the links below:

- Cadent: [Cadent VCMA Report 2024/25](#)
- NGN: [VCMA-report-2025 V7.pdf](#)
- SGN: [SGN VCMA Annual Report 2025.pdf](#)
- WWU: [VCMA Annual Reports | Wales & West Utilities](#)
- Collaborative: [Collaborative GDN VCMA Annual Report 2024/25](#)

## Welsh Government

Publication of updated Approved Document J which came into force on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Circular Letter [WGC 004/2024](#) was published on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 advising of the changes and coming into force date.

Welsh Government are happy to liaise with other administrations to share information and evidence gathered as part of preparing for the update to AD-J in Wales.

## UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) / Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC)

UKHSA published the [Cold Weather Communications Toolkit](#) and [Cold Weather Risks and their Impact on Health](#) in 2025, which mentions that the impacts of cold weather on health can have indirect effects, such as risk of CO poisoning due to malfunctioning or poorly maintained heating equipment.

UKHSA contributed to CO Awareness Week (17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025). This included a blog post on [how to protect your home and family from the invisible danger of CO](#), a [LinkedIn article](#) on how to protect homes from CO based on a [literature review](#) published by UKHSA, and posts on Facebook, X, Instagram and BlueSky on the risks, symptoms, sources and actions to take if CO exposure is suspected. UKHSA also posted information on social media to raise awareness of the signs of CO in December 2025 leading up to the holiday period.

UKHSA presented the updated [CO antenatal checks algorithm](#) and the initial results of its pilot study at the UKHSA Annual Outdoor and Indoor Air Pollution Stakeholder event in November 2025.

UKHSA teams attended the CORT conference in October 2025, a conference that brings together researchers, policymakers, industry leaders and advocates to discuss CO.

## Public Health Wales

Public Health Wales (PHW) have a regular programme of communication campaigns to continue to raise awareness of CO and associated health impacts, focusing on Gas Safety Week and CO Awareness month campaigns on social media platforms.

The outputs from last years' Time to Talk Public Health nationally representative population panel, lead to enhanced comms targeting travel and presentations at conferences including the 5 Nations Health Protection Conference.

Information and guidance on CO, and other health harms, has been included in the PHW ["Your Pregnancy and Birth"](#) booklet, provided to expectant and new parents.

## 6) Supporting Professionals

### Public Health Wales

PHW keeps documents and guidance (both for internal and external use) under constant review to ensure the most up-to-date information is available. These reviews have included collaboration with other agencies and partners in the UK, to ensure best practice across nations.

The Environmental Public Health team in PHW undertake public health risk assessments for CO incidents and provide advice to partners when required. For most CO incidents the investigation process is well established but for more unusual incidents, such as where there is a population risk or where the source is unidentified PHW will provide chemical and public health advice.

For the period of 01/11/2024-31/10/2025 there were 13 CO incidents in Wales notified to PHW and logged in the incident management database. These incidents mainly occurred at residential properties with most sources involving faulty appliances.

### UKHSA / National Poisons Information Service (NPIS)

The National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) is a service commissioned by UKHSA on behalf of UK health departments. The NPIS provides information and advice to NHS healthcare professionals on patients with suspected poisoning primarily through [TOXBASE](#), an online database of poisons and toxins, as well as a telephone enquiry service supported by specialists for more complex cases. The NPIS Annual Report 2024 to 2025<sup>3</sup> mentions CO as an environmental toxin that people in the UK may be exposed to. NPIS staff published two congress abstracts on CO in 2024:

*Cheung T, Das B, Henke D, Gray LA, Sandilands EA, Thanacoody HKR, Elamin MEMO. 'Analytically confirmed carbon monoxide exposures reported to the UK National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) 2009–2022'. Clinical Toxicology 2024: volume 62, page 97*

*Veiraiah A. 'Poisoning by carbon monoxide'. Medicine 2024: volume 52, pages 372-373*

### UKHSA

UKHSA published the updated CO antenatal checks algorithm in November 2025. The algorithm helps midwives and maternity staff diagnose environmental CO poisoning in both smoking and non-smoking pregnant women and offer advice in the event of suspected exposure. The algorithm was published following a pilot study funded by the [CO](#)

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.npis.org/Download/NPIS%20report%202024-25.pdf>

[Research Trust \(CORT\)](#) to evaluate the updated algorithm in maternity units across the country. The updated algorithm lowers the threshold of exhalation to 4 parts per million (ppm) or above to consider CO exposure from smoking, and 10 ppm or above for smokers and non-smokers to consider environmental CO exposure. Based on findings from the pilot, the algorithm also guides midwives to provide advice on environmental CO to pregnant women with exhaled CO levels between 4 and 9 ppm. A peer-reviewed paper on the findings of the pilot study is in preparation. The CO antenatal checks algorithm and its summary are available in HTML and PDF formats:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carbon-monoxide-co-antenatal-checks-algorithm-for-midwives>

UKHSA is a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Together with local UKHSA Health Protection Teams, Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Departments (EHE) responds to chemical incidents, which threaten people's health, such as chemical fires, chemical releases, contamination of the environment or the deliberate release of chemicals and poisons.

During CO incidents where there is an ongoing risk of exposure from elevated concentrations of CO, UKHSA can advise emergency services, and others, to ensure the risk to wider populations are considered beyond an exposed individual patient. It is critical to ensure the source of CO is identified and mitigated against to prevent ongoing wider exposures and health impacts, in addition to identifying the potential routes of exposure and the population at risk. UKHSA's role during an incident is to provide environmental public health risk assessment advice, 24 hours and 7 days a week, to multi-agency responders at the scene of a CO incident, or to those leading a CO investigation such as a local authority.

For most CO incidents, the investigation process is well established by partners and UKHSA involvement or advice may not be required. However, UKHSA can advise in incidents where the source of CO is unknown or unusual, there is a population at risk, or interventions to resolve the CO source do not lie with the enquirer, and a level of coordination is required to protect public health. For example, information received from a hospital clinician treating a walk-in patient for CO poisoning will not wish to discharge a patient back to a CO source.

UKHSA undertakes public health risk assessments during these incidents and provides advice to relevant stakeholders and the public to help protect public health. These events are logged in an incident management database. For the period of November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, there were 60 incidents logged involving potential CO exposure in England with the cause of the incidents recorded in the table below.

**Table 6: Number of incidents logged involving CO in England – November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**

Cause	Number of events
Faulty appliance	1
Faulty battery	1

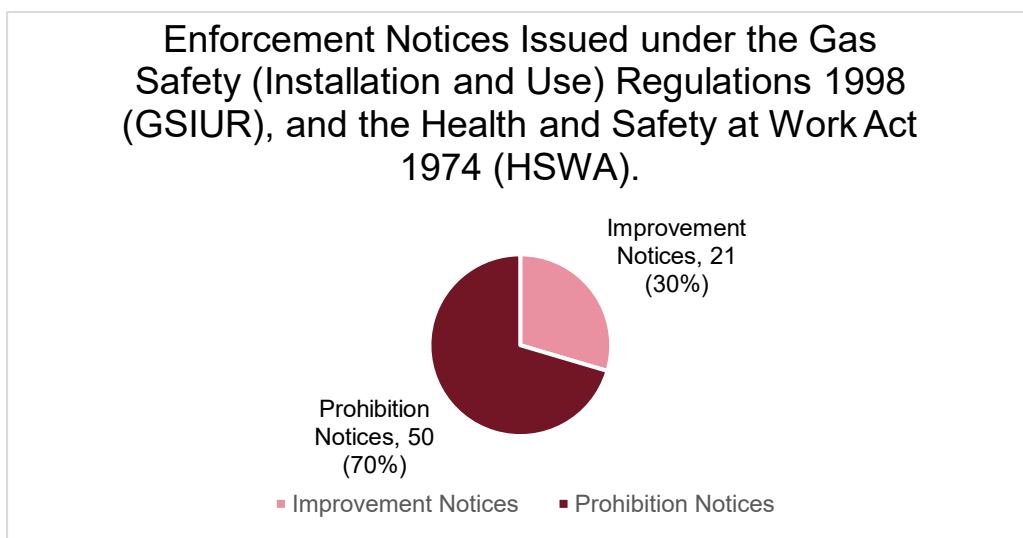
Cross Government Group on Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness and Gas Safety 2024-2025

Faulty BBQ	1
Faulty boiler	11
Faulty cooker	2
Faulty generator	3
Faulty heater	1
Faulty supply	5
Fire	1
Flue	1
Human error	1
Intentional exposure to gas appliances and generator	1
Not stated	28
Unknown	3

## 7) Legislation and Securing Justice

### HSE and HSENI – Enforcement Action

During 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31st March 2025, HSE issued 71 enforcement notices in relation to breaches of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. This includes 50 prohibition notices and 21 improvement notices.



### HSE Prosecutions

During the 2024/2025 operational year (1/4/2024 to 31/3/2025), HSE brought gas safety prosecutions under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GSIUR) or alongside the Health and Safety and Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA) including:

- 11 charges for breaches brought against defendants for breaches of GSIUR and HSWA – resulting in 10 successful convictions.
- 1 x Immediate prison sentence of 12 months.
- 7 x Suspended prison sentences ranging between 12 months and 14 weeks.
- 2 x Fines between £12,000 and £13,500.

### Gas Safe Register

**Table 7: Gas Safe Register Enforcement Statistics 2024-2025 – Suspension reasons breakdown according to sector.**

Suspension reasons 2024-2025 - Contract Year 6	Business only	Operative only	Business & operative	Operative work category only
Voluntary work category suspension (Failure to allow a work inspection)		7		
Probationary				

<b>Suspension reasons 2024-2025 - Contract Year 6</b>	<b>Business only</b>	<b>Operative only</b>	<b>Business &amp; operative</b>	<b>Operative work category only</b>
Voluntary work category suspension (Failure to allow a work inspection) Non-Probationary		<b>20</b>		
Failure to allow a work inspection (including health reasons, Voluntary & VIE*) Probationary	<b>387</b>			
Failure to allow a work inspection (including health reasons, Voluntary & VIE) Non-Probationary	<b>1355</b>			
Intent to suspend emails sent (for VIE only) Non-Probationary	<b>514</b>			
Failure to rectify defects. Non-Probationary	<b>53</b>			
Failure to rectify defects. Probationary	<b>4</b>			
Failure to demonstrate and/or apply competence. Probationary		<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>
Failure to demonstrate and/or apply competence. Non-Probationary		<b>11</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>17</b>
Failure to demonstrate & apply competence & heightened inspection Non-Probationary			<b>1</b>	
Failure to allow a work inspection & failure to rectify defects. Probationary	<b>1</b>			
Failure to demonstrate and/or apply competence, received from the awarding body. (work categories) Non-Probationary				<b>8</b>
Failure to demonstrate and/or apply competence, received from the awarding body. (work categories) Probationary				<b>1</b>
Conditions applied. Non-Probationary	<b>6</b>			
Conditions applied. Probationary	<b>2</b>			
Bringing the register into disrepute Non-Probationary		<b>1</b>		

<b>Suspension reasons 2024-2025 - Contract Year 6</b>	<b>Business only</b>	<b>Operative only</b>	<b>Business &amp; operative</b>	<b>Operative work category only</b>
Failure to comply with the rules of registration. Non probationary	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>32</b>

*\*Virtual Inspection Events (VIE) is a half-day awareness event which includes a knowledge-based test based on business/engineer registration work categories and unsafe situations, allowing validation of the engineers/businesses classification and risk rating.*

## **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) – Awaab’s Law**

Phase 1 of Awaab’s Law came into force for social housing in October 2025, requiring damp and mould and emergency hazards to be addressed within 24 hours, and will be expanded following a test-and-learn period.

MHCLG have committed to extending Awaab’s Law to a wider range of hazards as defined by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) (excluding overcrowding) over the coming years, in 2 phases. The test and learn approach will ensure the new legal requirements are operating effectively and will inform policy development of Phase 2 of Awaab’s Law. Timings will be confirmed for the implementation of Phase 2 in due course. Social landlords should be preparing for Phase 2 of Awaab’s Law.

Awaab’s Law will be extended to the Private Rented Sector (PRS), setting clear, legally enforceable timeframes within which PRS landlords must make homes safe where they contain serious hazards. This will empower tenants to challenge dangerous conditions in their homes. Consultation on the details of this policy, including implementation timescales, will be undertaken in due course.

## **Building Safety Regulator (BSR)**

The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) is carrying out a review of the life safety requirements in Part J of the Building Regulations, and statutory guidance in Approved Document J. This is to ensure that that the installation standards and associated guidance for the installation of combustion appliances and fuel storage are up to date and fit for future purpose.

## 8) Research

### UKHSA

In January 2025, UKHSA published a rapid literature review characterising CO household exposure and health impacts in high and middle-income countries. The aim was to understand household exposure among studies published between 2010 and 2024. Most homes had CO levels below official safety limits, but occasional spikes occurred during activities like cooking or burning fuel. The review identified five main factors that influence exposure: the type and size of the dwelling, the sources of CO (e.g., appliances or outdoor air), seasonal and daily variations, environmental conditions, and the socioeconomic status of residents. Key issues were ventilation, room size, seasonal changes, and cooking practices. The insights from this review can help improve models of indoor CO exposure, guide monitoring in households, and support public health actions to reduce risks.

Williams, S.V.; Close, R.; Piel, F.B.; Barratt, B.; Crabbe, H. Characterising Carbon Monoxide Household Exposure and Health Impacts in High- and Middle-Income Countries—A Rapid Literature Review, 2010–2024. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2025**, *22*, 110. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22010110>

## 9) Parliamentary Activity

### Parliamentary Questions and Answers

Departmental responses to the Parliamentary Questions raised in relation to CO can be found at: [Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament.](#)

Some examples of Parliamentary questions and responses include:

#### Care Quality Commission (CQC)

CQC contributed to the following Parliamentary Questions related to CO:

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench) - To ask His Majesty's Government what measures are (1) currently in place and (2) planned in future, to protect staff and patients in hospitals, care homes and hospices from carbon monoxide poisoning. HL6340

[Answer on Hansard: Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Julia Buckley MP (Labour) - To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of removing the exemption of care homes from the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 on public health. PQ14532

[Answer on Hansard: Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

#### Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The Health and Safety Executive contributed to the following Parliamentary Questions on Carbon Monoxide and Gas Safety:

Alex Brewer MP (Liberal Democrats) - To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of requiring all operatives entering a UK home to undertake gas work to display their Gas Safe Register accreditation and ID: 80520

[Answer on Hansard: Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Alex Brewer MP (Liberal Democrats) - To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of (a) a nationwide

implementation of a digital verification tool to ensure only qualified professionals can purchase gas critical products or parts and (b) a UK inventory register of gas critical products and parts to support this.

Answer on Hansard: [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

## **Gas Safety Week 2025 – Parliamentary Reception**

Paul Davies, MP for Colne Valley and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG) hosted a reception on behalf of the Gas Safe Register at the Houses of Parliament on 11th September 2025.

- Paul Davies, MP for Colne Valley
- Rob Denman, Gas Safe Register
- Gordon Lishman, Gas Safe Charity
- Simon Main, Gas Safe Charity
- Oliver Lancaster, IGEM

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this report highlights efforts made across departments, the devolved administrations, and other governmental bodies in 2024 - 2025 to raise awareness of carbon monoxide and gas safety through legislation, campaigns, enforcement, and providing support to stakeholders and the public.



## Further information

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit [the HSE website](#).

You can order HSE priced publications at [the HSE books website](#).

HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

This publication is available on the HSE website: [Cross Government Group On Gas Safety And Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) Awareness - HSE](#)

© Crown copyright If you wish to reuse this information visit [the HSE website](#) for details. First published 04/26.

Published by the Health and Safety Executive 04/26.