

Health in Environmental Impact Assessment

A Primer for a Proportionate Approach

UK EIA Regulations 2017 – IEMA webinar

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to sustainability

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What has changed?

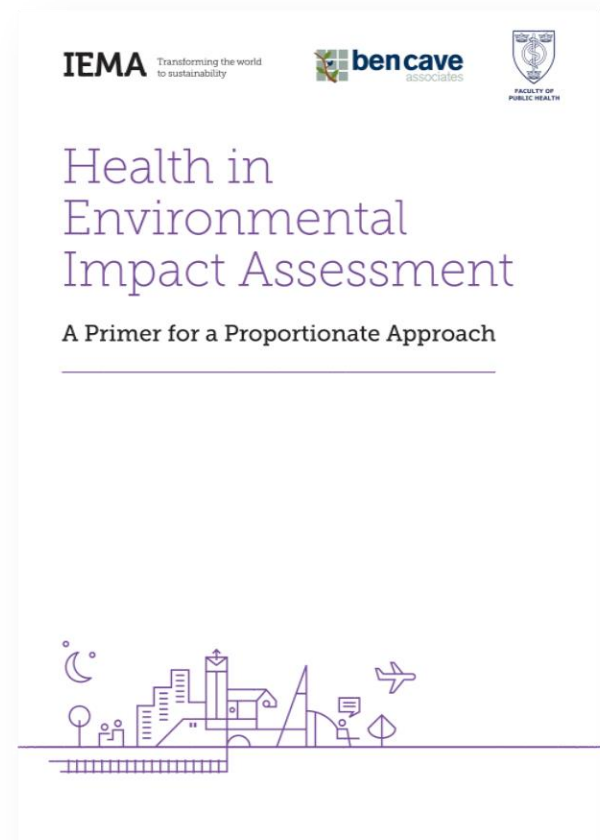
The 2017 changes to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations clarify that:

‘population and human health’ should be on the list of topics that are considered in an EIA.



A primer to spark discussion

- Jointly authored by
 - Ben Cave Associates
 - IEMA
 - Faculty of Public Health
- The audience include
 - Public health teams
 - EIA practitioners
 - Planning officers
 - Consultees
 - Consenting authorities



Available at www.bcahealth.eu; www.iema.net; www.fph.org.uk



Challenges to, and opportunities for, the practice of EIA

- Defining health in EIA
- Relationship between EIA and HIA
- Health outcome measures in EIA
- Public health evidence in EIA
- Defining significance for health in EIA
- Competencies for assessing health in EIA
- Risks of business-as-usual coverage of health in EIA
- EIA and environmental permitting links on health



Five key principles should underpin health in EIA

- **Comprehensive approach to health.** Consider the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.
- **Proportionate.** Agree with stakeholders a focus on only the likely significant health effects of a project.
- **Consistency.** Work in accordance with up-to-date policy, guidance and scientific consensus.
- **Equity.** Consider the distribution of health effects across a population and if appropriate take action.
- **Reasonableness.** Deliver an objective assessment based on evidence and on sound judgment.



Key messages

The Primer offers brief guidance and recommendations.

More is needed.

- Full guidance for EIA practitioners, consultees and consenting authorities is urgently required.
- The IEMA health working group (ia@iema.net) can enable discussion and arrange meetings.
- The next 12-18 months is a window of opportunity for public health to help shape EIA good practice.



Thank you

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