

RESEARCH RISK ASSESSMENT: Risk Estimation Tool

ASSESSING LIKELIHOOD OF EVENT

Likelihood Score				
VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	FAIRLY LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY

ASSESSING CONSEQUENCE

Consequence / Impact	General risk description	Physical / mental harm description
INSIGNIFICANT	Annoyance but does not disrupt service: Financial loss to institution under £5k; Isolated service user complaints contained within unit/section• Litigation claim or fine less than £5k• Failure to achieve a core research objective	No significant harm to health Minor injuries not requiring first aid
MINOR	Minor impact on service• Minor injuries to several people• Financial loss in excess of £5k but less than £50K• Isolated service user complaints contained within department• Litigation claim or fine in excess of £5k but less than £50K• Failure to achieve several research objectives including a core objective	Nuisance and irritation; temporary ill-health leading to discomfort, stress / distress. Minor injuries requiring first aid. Superficial injuries, minor cuts and bruises; eye irritation from dust.
MODERATE	Service disruption• Financial loss in excess of £50k but less than £500K• Adverse local media coverage • Lots of service user complaints• Litigation claims or fine in excess of £50k but less than £500K• Failure to achieve one or more supporting strategy objective/s	Short term sickness absence, dermatitis; asthma; work-related upper limb disorders; diagnosable mental health condition (e.g. post traumatic stress). Injury resulting in person incapacitated or absent from work for less than 7 days. Lacerations; minor burns; sprains.
MAJOR	Significant service disruption• financial loss in excess of £500k but less than £5million• adverse national media coverage• Litigation claim or fine in excess of £500,000 but less than £5million• Failure to achieve one or more strategic plan objective/s	Ill- health leading to permanent minor disability. Partial hearing lost; Long term sickness absence (7+ days). Diagnosable mental health condition significantly affecting day to day life; Self harm or harm to others due to mental health condition. Incapacitated or absent from work for more than 7+ days. Lacerations; burns; concussion; serious sprains; minor fractures.
CATASTROPHIC	Total service loss for a significant period• Financial loss in excess of £5million• National publicity more than 3 days. Possible resignation of leading member or chief officer• Multiple civil or criminal suits. Litigation claim or fine above £5million• Failure to achieve a major corporate objective in the Strategic Plan	Acute fatal diseases; severe life shortening diseases; permanent substantial disability (life changing), Ill health retirement. Suicide or serious harm to others due to mental ill health. Fatal injuries; permanent substantial physical disability (life changing)); Amputations. Multiple serious injuries; serious burns; loss of sight; major fractures. Loss of consciousness caused by head injury, inhalation of substance or asphyxia.

RISK MATRIX

Likely Consequence	Catastrophic	Medium	High	Very High	Very high	Very High
	Major	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	Moderate	Very low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Minor	Very low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	Insignificant	Very low	Very low	Low	Low	Low
		Very unlikely	Unlikely	Fairly likely	Likely	Very likely
Likelihood of identified event / hazardous event occurring						

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Note: General risk descriptor is based on the descriptor used in the University's risk register