

The following questions were raised during our first Health & Safety webinar on 17 June. You may find this information useful to refer to in the future.

What is the difference between an 'accredited rep' and one the hasn't done the training?

An accredited rep has completed either the UNISON or TUC Health & Safety course and they are therefore given the legal protections under the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977. They are also entitled to facility time (paid time off) to undertake union duties.

I am already a Health & Safety rep. Can I still join the webinars?

You can still join the webinars if you have already completed the Health & Safety course. They have been created to give you the most up to date and urgent information to help you in your role as a rep during this pandemic.

Do you have to be elected as a Health & Safety rep?

Yes, all UNISON representatives are elected by members in their workplace. If you decide to be a Health & Safety rep, you will need to be nominated and seconded by other members in your workplace. Your branch will then need to ratify this. If you have any further questions regarding the election process, then contact your branch- you can use our branch finder tool [here](#).

Is there a conflict if you are the employer's health & safety officer and the union's health & safety rep?

It is possible to be employed in a H&S role and to also be a UNISON H&S Rep. However, the branch and employer would both need to be satisfied that there would be no conflict of interest.

When will the regional training be made available?

A pilot online H&S course will be running next month, after which the online course will be available to book from September. Once dates are confirmed, this will be circulated along with information on how to register. In the meantime, you can continue to attend our webinars throughout June and July to stay 'in the loop' with Health & Safety.

Until we receive the Health & Safety rep training, what role can we have within our workplace?

Whilst you await training, you can become a workplace contact. The role of a workplace contact is to let your branch know what's happening in your workplace, and to help the union get messages to its members. It's a good learning opportunity and starting point to get involved in the union.

They:

- Share information with colleagues and other UNISON members
- Keep notice boards up to date with UNISON information
- Have regular conversations with members in the workplace
- Support people looking to join UNISON

Workplace contacts can and do play an important role in helping groups of members to organise effectively.

If you want to become a workplace contact, please speak to your branch. It's an informal arrangement, and you don't need to be elected by members to be a workplace contact.

Please note that all members of staff have a responsibility towards health & safety. If you see something that you consider to be dangerous or has the potential to be dangerous, you should report it.