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# **Versus Arthritis with SOM MSK at work**

**- gap analysis webinar**



Supporting occupational health  
and wellbeing professionals

# MSK at work network

The MSK at Work Network was established in 2019, aims to keep workers healthy via advocacy to:

- Policy makers
- Employers
- Health professionals
- Academics

Members of the Network include representatives from Charities (such as Versus Arthritis and NRAS), professional bodies and networks (such as the Council for Work and Health, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, and the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance), organisations such as The Work Foundation, the Institute of Occupational Medicine and Universities.

<https://www.som.org.uk/msk-work-network>. Contact SOM to join



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# MSK at work tools



[MSK Health Toolkit for employers and further education institutions](#) from SOM, the British Society for Rheumatology and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities was launched in October 2022.



Toolkit for employers on MSK issues [here](#)



HSE has useful resources [here](#).



[here](#) - presentation on OH physiotherapy for NHS staff from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and [here](#) for a briefing pack for managers so they are educated regarding managing MSK issues

# Occupational Health: The Value Proposition

Dr Paul J Nicholson OBE

March 2022

*Occupational health services enhance  
employee health, workforce productivity,  
business performance and the economy*

# SOM Journal of Occupational Medicine



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Revisit highly cited articles

# Budget recognition of Occupational Health

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SOM and FOM welcome the 2023 Budget – a good first step

Great to hear the Chancellor recognise the importance of occupational health during his budget speech.

Important to recognise OH as evidence based intervention, as opposed to wellbeing.

SOM statement at <https://www.som.org.uk/budget-health-measures-first-step-towards-tackling-workforce-drop-outs>

## What was in the budget? - 1

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£25m for a subsidy pilot for SME's to access occupational health to examine the impact on uptake of OH and build an evidence base for a national roll out of the subsidy. Likely 80% subsidy for first assessment

Two new consultations:

- One concerning opportunities to incentivise uptake of OH for employers through taxation
- The second will explore increasing employer engagement with OH by regulation or other levers.

will also consider “a process to assure quality of OH services”. Likely to be SEQOHS.

## What was in the budget? – 2

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A new service called “WorkWell” – a three-year pilot to provide funding for Integrated care systems (ICSs) to provide lower level biopsychosocial support from clinical and non-clinical services to encourage people to return to work. Exact service decided at local level by the ICSs, but may include access to OH.

### SOM points

Services without OH expertise may not be able to advise on work/health interface e.g. underuse of the fit note by GP teams



## What was in the budget? – 3

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MSK and Mental health online tools - £400m

### Concerns

- Digital solutions may offer scalable prevention/ monitoring/ early therapeutic approaches but there are accessibility issues
- Need OH support handoffs

## What was in the budget? – 4

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- Health and disability white paper
- Abolish work capability assessment- health component of universal credit to be allocated via PIP- claimants will receive workcoach support
- More funding for work coaches
- Universal Support programme to match individuals with vacancies, providing training and support

# Major Conditions Strategy

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The Government has opened the call for evidence for the Major Conditions Strategy.

The strategy will focus on how best to prevent, diagnose early, treat, and manage the six major groups of conditions.

These conditions drive-ill health and contribute to the burden of disease in the population in England