

# OP8

## EVALUATING THE UTILITY OF THE DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

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### Background:

The utility of the occupational medicine (OM) diploma in the UK is yet to be evaluated. The NHS 'Growing OH and Wellbeing' programme provides opportunities for diplomates to increase their OH work.

### Aims:

To assess what proportion of diplomates carry out OH work, the type of work being undertaken, and to identify obstacles impeding OH work. Additionally, capturing their interest in future work opportunities and the support necessary.

### Methods:

A link to a online questionnaire was sent to diplomates via several professional bodies, we estimate that 2428 diplomates received this. The survey was open from 24 March – 31 May 2022.

### Results:

Replies were received from 310/2428 (13%) diplomates. 52% of respondents were males and 35% were female. Respondents were diverse in terms of age, and geographical region. Main employment settings: 13% primary care, 43% secondary care, 31% private sector, 24% public sector, 20% self-employed. 72% of diplomates had undertaken OH clinical work since completion of their diploma, and 90% of those were undertaking OH clinical work at the time of the survey. 41% expressed interest in setting up a new OH clinic. Specific obstacles to accessing OH work highlighted included: existing workload constraints, lack of employment opportunities with OH providers and lack of time.

### Conclusions:

41% of respondents stated they have considered increasing their OH work in the previous 12 months. Increasing mentorship from senior OH clinicians to diplomates was suggested by 4% of respondents as a way to enhance the utility of diplomates.