

APPCOG Background Briefing

CO Data Workshop

1 April 2021, 9:30 – 11:00 via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 277 391 9410

Chaired by Baroness Finlay

An event to analyse and examine the current sources of data on CO incidents and exposure; and bring together views on what improvements can be made. It is widely accepted that improved data on carbon monoxide would help CO victims to be better supported by healthcare workers. Access to better data on CO would benefit many parties, assisting GDNs in targetting their resources effectively and enabling nationwide research projects. If records can be coordinated and aligned, trends and prevalence of CO incidents could be identified, and effective pathways for data could be establish. Ultimately, better data on CO would benefit gas consumers and society.

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item
9:30	1. Opening Remarks and event overview from APPCOG Co-Chair Baroness Finlay
9:40	2. Expert Speakers: Practices for CO incident data collection, recording and sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Dacre, NGN• Mark Hazelton, Gas Safety Trust and National Fire Chief Council• Gill Jackson, National Poisons Information Service
10:00	3. Overview of CO data sources and challenges: Laura Fatah, Policy Connect
10:05	4. Workshop Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. What benefits can better data on CO bring?II. What data is needed?III. How can CO data practices be improved?

10:55	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Next Steps: Adrian McConnell, Gas Safety Trust6. Closing remarks from Parliamentary Chair
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Background

About the APPCOG

The All-Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG) is the leading forum for Parliamentarians from both the Houses of Commons and Lords, to work together to discuss ways of tackling carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, to improve government policy on carbon monoxide safety, and to raise public awareness of the threat posed by deadly CO gas. Through its busy programme of events and research, the Group seeks to push the vital issue of carbon monoxide safety up the political agenda. In doing so, the Group works closely with a coalition of CO campaigners, charities and energy industry companies committed to tackling CO poisoning in the Stakeholder Forum. Policy Connect provides the secretariat for the APPCOG.

About Policy Connect

Policy Connect is a membership-based, not-for-profit, cross-party think tank. We bring together parliamentarians and government in collaboration with academia, business and civil society to inform, influence and improve UK public policy through debate, research and innovative thinking, so as to improve peoples' lives. We lead and manage an extensive network of parliamentary groups, research commissions, forums and campaigns. We are a London living wage employer and a Member of Social Enterprise UK, and have been operating since 1995.

Our work focuses on key policy areas including health and accessibility; education & skills; industry, technology & innovation; and sustainability. We shape policy in Westminster through meetings, events, research and impact work.

Context of the meeting

Event overview: This event will explore how current incident data on CO is collected, how the quality and coverage of this data could be improved, and where there may be opportunities to improve prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of CO poisoning through improved data sharing and collaboration.

There are many public bodies which collect data on CO incidents and exposures, these include:

1. Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
2. Office of National Statistics (ONS)
3. Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs)
4. National Gas Incident System (NGIS)
5. National Poisons Information Service

6. Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), reporting to the Home Office
7. Gas Emergency Service
8. Gas Safe Register
9. Healthcare – NHS and Private
10. Police
11. Boat Safety Scheme

Organisations collect data in a range of ways, and often have differing legal obligations as to what they record. Some organisations share their data, for example the Fire and Rescue Service report to the Home Office each quarter, but this is not universal. There is no set protocol for responding to a CO incident, or for following up to see what the outcome of an incident has been. Whether or not 'near misses' are, or should be, recorded is also unclear, and appears to vary across different areas and bodies.

In short, the data on CO is piecemeal and disjointed. This creates several issues:

- Accurately identifying the prevalence of CO incidents (and harm incurred) across the UK is very difficult
- Each record contains only one piece of the story; meaning that outcomes are often unknown, and there is no feedback which the bodies and systems that respond to CO incidents could use to gauge effectivity
- Individuals affected by CO exposure struggle to access treatment
- CO research is generally limited to studies covering small areas, as opposed to drawing on an existing nationwide data set
- Measuring the impact of public safety initiatives is hindered

Expert Speaker Bios

Steve Dacre started his career as an apprentice Gas Service Engineer thirty years ago, and has progressed through the ranks to become Vulnerability Innovations Lead for Northern Gas Network. By engaging with businesses both in and out of the sector, he has built a strong understanding of the current and potential issues faced by customers and wider stakeholders, and how these might be overcome. Steve closely follows the development of technological, digital and data innovations which will bring benefit to all customers, stakeholders, employees, and the business. Steve says "My thoughts are firmly on the line of 'If it can be imagined, it can be done!'. By keeping data at the heart of decision making, we are driving business performance forward to new horizons as we continually learn the 'Art of the Possible'."

Dr Gillian Jackson has a PhD in neuropharmacology and has worked for the UK National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) since 2007. Gill has a lead role in the development and distribution of [TOXBASE](#), the UK's primary poison information database. TOXBASE is the first point of reference for all healthcare professionals treating poisoned patients in the UK, supported by a 24/7 national helpline which provides specialist advice to healthcare professionals. Gill is interested in utilising UK healthcare data to address public health concerns and provide the best possible NHS healthcare services; promoting the role that TOXBASE and the NPIS play in public health; and improving poisons information provision in under-developed countries (via the use of TOXBASE).

Mark Hazelton has served as Trustee for the Gas Safety Trust since March 2019. Mark is an expert in reducing risk and is an active Trustee, representing the trust at the National Fire Chief's Council and Home Safety Committee. Prior to becoming a trustee Mark served in the Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) with Kent Fire Brigade and London Fire Brigade (LFB), for a total of 30 years. He served in various ranks including as an operational Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the LFB. During his service he served in a wide range of positions that included the Channel Tunnel fire station, fire safety regulation, training, operations and community safety. He represented the FRS nationally as lead for Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear personal protective equipment, Carbon Monoxide Safety, and Smoking Fire Reduction.

Secretariat Contact

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