

4. Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

4.1 Aims and policies

The history of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) dates back to 1883 with the founding of its predecessor organisation, The Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors. [1] The membership of the CIEH stands at over 9,000. [2]

Statement of purpose and values

The objectives, mission, vision, aims and values of the institute [3] are as follows.

“The Royal Charter object

The object for which the Chartered Institute is established is to promote for the public benefit the theory and science of environmental health in all its aspects and the dissemination of knowledge about environmental health.”

“Our mission

To promote effective environmental health practice.”

“The five year vision

Leading, inspiring and delivering a safer, cleaner and healthier world.”

“Our strategic aims

- *Set and maintain high standards in education, training and professional behaviour.*
- *Promote excellence in environmental health practice*
- *Be the voice of the profession in the promotion of public health, sustainable development and climate change solutions.*
- *Increase the knowledge and application of environmental health practice.*
- *Provide products and services to support environmental health gains.*
- *Be an inclusive membership body.”*

“Our unique proposition

We are a charity, with a Royal Charter dedicated to advancing the cause of improved environmental health for public benefit through our stakeholders' activities and those of our members. Profits generated by our activity are used to support our continuance and sustainability. We are a true professional social enterprise.”

“Core values

We are committed to:

- *Openness, fairness, honesty, trust, integrity, equality, equity and accessibility in all dealings;*
- *The pursuit of knowledge competence and excellence;*
- *The pursuit of sustainable development; and*
- *Working with and through others.”*

Environmental policy

The organisation’s environmental commitment [4] is as follows.

*“Putting the environment at the centre of everything we do
We are wholeheartedly committed to environmental best practice. As a leading global public health body, we believe that there is an irrefutable and critical link between environmental sustainability and health and wellbeing. As a campaigning organisation, we work to raise awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability and environmental issues with government, its members and the public. We run an environmental champions programme to engage staff and encourage a bottom up approach to environmental sustainability.”*

This commitment is stronger than that of most other similar professional bodies – which is unsurprising, given the organisation’s mission is to promote environmental health. The full environmental policy outlines the CIEH’s policies regarding day-to-day environmental practice. [5]

4.2 Investments

Size and location of funds

The CIEH held investments of approximately £8.4 million, according to a recent annual report. [2] A breakdown is given in table 4.1. The annual report offered little further information about these investments, stating only that the institute’s investment portfolio was held with Cazenove Capital Management. It did not list those companies or funds in which this finance was invested. The CIEH did not provide any further detail in response to our request for more information on its investments.

<i>Investment category</i>	<i>Amount in investment category (£)</i>	<i>% of total investments</i>
Listed investments	7,835,000	93
Cash and cash equivalents	576,000	7
Total	8,411,000	100

Table 4.1 – Investments held by the CIEH [2]

The only investments in table 4.1 we could unequivocally identify were those held in cash – approximately 7% of the total – so we concluded that only this fraction was definitely not held in the arms or fossil fuel industries.

General investment policy

Information about the CIEH’s investment policy was given in a recent annual report, as follows. [2]

“Investment powers

The Board of Trustees may invest any monies belonging to the CIEH in accordance with the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000, or in the purchase of freehold or leasehold property in the United Kingdom provided that as regards leasehold property the term thereof shall have at least 60 years to run.

The funding provided to the CIEH through the sale and leaseback of 15 Hatfields has been invested to meet its charitable objectives for the long term. Cazenove Capital Management (an operating division of Schroder & Co) was appointed to advise the Investment Sub-Committee of the Trustee Board in the construction of a suitable investment portfolio, and to manage the investment into specific funds to be held within the portfolio.”

Further details were provided in the report about investment targets.

Ethical investment policy

We found no mention of an ethical investment policy or any excluded areas in the organisation’s annual report or on its website. The CIEH did provide any further detail in response to our request for information on this area.

4.3 School education programmes

According to the information on its website, the CIEH does not appear to have a school education programme.

4.4 Events and sponsorship

While the CIEH does offer advertising and sponsorship at its events, the number of events which are sponsored appears limited. We carried out a short survey of events listed on its website in mid-2017. Of the 20 nationally organised events, only one of them had sponsors. [6] This was the 2017 Food Safety Conference, whose exhibitors and sponsors were Kelsius. [7]

The CIEH also offers training for corporate clients from a wide range of industrial sectors and companies. [8] The clients listed on their website in mid-2017 were: **Air BP [F]^a**, Bourne Leisure, Brew Dog, Bupa, Champneys, Debenhams, DHL, Domino’s Pizza, Ferndale Foods, Fusion Lifestyle, Ikea, Kew Green Hotels, Krispy Kreme, Merlin Entertainments, Kent Community Health NHS, Off to Work, Park inn, QHotels, The Salvation Army, Thames Water, The Restaurant Group, Yo Sushi, and Zuma. [8] Hence, one out of 23 training clients listed (4%) was part of the fossil fuel sector with none in the arms sector. Since there was not a sponsorship or public relations element to this financial link, we do not consider it of significance to this study.

^a [A] indicates companies which, in this report, are categorised as being part of the arms industry. [F] indicates companies which, in this report, are categorised as being part of the fossil fuel industry.

4.5 Corporate membership

While there were references to corporate membership on the CIEH website, we could find no details about the scheme.

4.6 Other corporate links

The CIEH accepts advertising income from businesses and others in some of its publications. *Environmental Health News* is CIEH’s membership magazine. We found that advertising rates ranged from £756 to £2,500. [9] However, we were not able to assess the level of corporate advertising in the time available for this study.

4.7 Overall assessment

Reviewing the information in this case study, we have given the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health the assessment as shown in tables 4.2a and b.

	<i>Investments</i>	<i>School education programmes</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Other</i>
Involvement with arms corporations	Medium	-	None	-
Involvement with fossil fuel corporations	Medium	-	None	-

Table 4.2a – Corporate involvement ratings for the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health

	<i>Ethical issues covered in this study</i>
Positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No intentional financial links with arms corporations • Minimal intentional financial links with fossil fuel corporations • Comprehensive environmental policy, together with associated initiatives
Negatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ethical investment policy • Lack of transparency about investments or corporate membership • Investments in arms and fossil fuel corporations therefore likely

Table 4.2b – Positives and negatives for the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health

In terms of transparency, the CIEH publicly published information on its financial links to external organisations, including industry, in the area of events sponsorship. We were not able to find similar information regarding its investments or corporate membership.

The environmental policy published by the CIEH was exemplary – arguably the most comprehensive of all the organisations we assessed in this study. However, its lack of an ethical investment policy was very disappointing.

We found no direct evidence of financial connections between the CIEH and the arms industry. However, a lack of published data on the CIEH's investments, coupled with the lack of an ethical investment policy, meant that was highly likely that at least some of its investments would be in this sector.

We found minimal financial links between the CIEH and the fossil fuel industry (see section 4.4). However, a lack of published data on the CIEH's investments, coupled with the lack of an ethical investment policy, meant that was highly likely that at least some of its investments would be in this sector.

References

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