# **Lloyd’s Register Foundation**

# **What works for safety: call for expressions of interest to establish a global evidence centre**

## April 2022

Lloyd’s Register Foundation is requesting *expressions of interest* from organisations from any part of the world with the required knowledge, capability, networks and convening power to establish and run a global ‘What Works Centre’ and network focussed on safety of life and property.

This call aims to stimulate and assess interest in this initiative. Interested parties from across the world are invited to respond to our initial ideas with their vision for the centre, together with thoughts on how best to establish, run and support it over the long term. We welcome suggestions for key global stakeholders that might contribute to the establishment and running of the centre, and those who will find its work valuable, including those you might partner with.

Building on the responses to this Expressions of interest call, we will facilitate potential partnerships and support the development of proposals to establish a centre and network. Subject to the Foundation’s governance processes, a budget of up to GB£15 million could be available to establish and run the centre over the first five years. Interested parties must be able to leverage funding and partnerships to ensure that the centre has a long term, sustainable future with truly global reach and impact.

Responding to this call will enable you to participate in further discussions regarding the initiative but does not imply any binding commitment.

Interested parties are asked to respond with an expression of interest to ruth.frankish@lrfoundation.org.uk by **16 May** **2022**.

## Introduction to Lloyd’s Register Foundation

Lloyd's Register Foundation is an independent global charity with a unique structure and an important mission: **engineering a safer world**. We reduce risk and enhance the safety of the critical infrastructure that modern society relies upon in areas such as energy, transport and food.

Our [strategy](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/2019-strategy/) includes a cross-cutting focus on evidence and insight to better understand the complex factors that affect safety. Our goal is that interventions to improve safety will be driven by evidence of what works. We anticipate that this will require action across the data – evidence – action cycle to:

* Improve safety data – quality, availability, completeness
* Synthesise evidence to identify and understand safety challenges, and interventions that work to improve safety
* Understand evidence needs and support evidence based practice

By safety we are referring to aspects that are aligned with our broad [mission](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/about-us). Examples include the safety of physical infrastructure and of the people that build, operate, maintain and decommission such structures, and the protection of people and property from harm at sea.

## Background

The Foundation’s *Evidence & Insight Centre* has funded a range of short-term projects seeking to understand how evidence is used within areas close to our mission, and what that evidence is telling us. These commissions are starting to provide a pipeline of findings and recommendations, and some related themes are emerging:

* Better data collection is needed to enable understanding of the scale of challenges, causation, and the effectiveness of interventions (e.g. [psychological wellbeing](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/improving-safety-climate-by-tackling-mental-health/), [incidents and accidents at sea](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/maritime-occupational-accidents/), [aquaculture](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/occupational-health-safety-aquaculture/))
* Better monitoring and evaluation practice is needed to understand the effectiveness of safety programmes (e.g.[skills and education for food safety](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/skills-interventions-food-safety/), [aquaculture](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/occupational-health-safety-aquaculture/))
* There is a disconnect between academic groups working in safety, and practitioners who can make a difference to safety outcomes: practical tools are needed that embed research findings to enable practical application (e.g. [psychological wellbeing](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/improving-safety-climate-by-tackling-mental-health/), [designing safety interventions](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/importance-context-designing-effective-safety-interventions/))

Our most recent report – [Designing safety interventions for context](https://www.lrfoundation.org.uk/en/news/importance-context-designing-effective-safety-interventions/) – from Cranfield/Queensland University of Technology prompts some significant questions relating to safety training interventions, and suggests some key questions for further research:

* How do organisations learn to work safely?
* What enables or hinders effective safety learning?
* How do you improve the efficiency and effectiveness of safety training?
* How and why do safety interventions work?
* What works in what context and why?

## What works

The impact of addressing these themes and answering these research questions would be significant if the findings were translated into practical tools and guidance that can be readily implemented. To take these questions, and others forward, we are proposing a ‘what works’ approach.

‘What works’ can be used to improve the impact that research findings have on outcomes. The approach is based on the principle that good decision making is underpinned by good evidence, and if that evidence isn’t available, robust ways of generating it should be established. What works acknowledges that research evidence on its own isn’t enough: you need to know how and why something works and finally how to implement that knowledge to maximize impact.

One of the core components of a successful what works initiative is to have an evidence, or ‘what works’ centre[[1]](#footnote-2). This should be an independent organisation that curates and mobilises a high-quality evidence base of research, data and evaluations to help practitioners, policymakers and others to achieve their objectives. It works closely with wider networks of researchers and users of evidence to evaluate, create and synthesise evidence, to ensure needs are understood and that a tangible route to impact is assured.

## What works in safety – proposed model

Desk-based research and user engagement are likely to reveal further research questions that have potential to improve safety outcomes through a what works approach. In addition, we anticipate that future LRF research will generate further research questions across the broad reach of our mission.

While the users and researchers involved in what works activity need to be domain-specific, an effective evidence centre can operate more broadly. We are therefore proposing to establish a single what works centre for safety that operates across the Foundation’s mission space and provides a hub for convening users and commissioning research. This model will enable efficient operation and scalability while also ensuring that the needs of each user group are understood and met through high-quality research.

A What Works Centre for safety would impact on safety outcomes through increasing the implementation of effective and feasible safety programmes and interventions. The centre over time would become the first port of call for global safety policy makers and practitioners who need evidence and would provide them with a trusted source of robust, easily located, useful and implementable information and advice, developed in response to their needs.

We are already taking steps to identify evidence for what works in maritime wellbeing and convening users around this initiative. The pandemic has raised the profile of, and increased the pressures on the maritime community, and catalysing maritime what works capacity now will enable us to move quickly on this critical issue. We anticipate that this maritime activity will be an important part of the wider global What Works Centre and network in the future.

## Expressions of interest

To express your interest in this programme, either as a leader or to be involved in the network, please submit your answers to the questions in the form below.

Expressions of interest should be sent to ruth.frankish@lrfoundation.org.uk by 16 May.

## Information sessions

We will be running two information sessions via Microsoft Teams, to give interested parties further information about the Foundation and our ideas for the What Works Centre:

* [19 April 14.00 GMT](https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/oFQ0SvSMnEqxwGzk0Ulfgg%2CTEY4WoE550OdilON2A5z5g%2Cb7dPya_RXUuAnf9NxaHd5Q%2C95RsWyy3TEGBsHhb5nxKCQ%2CDmW1AofhvUSZrlIe6hBxCw%2CYaHEWlN1RUKgktfFLkoDtA?mode=read&tenantId=4a3454a0-8cf4-4a9c-b1c0-6ce4d1495f82)
* [20 April 9.30 GMT](https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/oFQ0SvSMnEqxwGzk0Ulfgg%2CTEY4WoE550OdilON2A5z5g%2Cb7dPya_RXUuAnf9NxaHd5Q%2CpACiiE6oDUWP7pC3dgp6oQ%2C4jL3sE-YokixFVYigxRvzQ%2C2fAV6f04xE6xayNLKC-nhg?mode=read&tenantId=4a3454a0-8cf4-4a9c-b1c0-6ce4d1495f82)

Attendees should register for the meetings in advance please.

## Next steps

Following the closing date, we will gauge interest and confirm next steps. This might include 1-1 discussions and workshops with interested organisations to test and refine the vision and broker potential partnerships ahead of proposal development. Funding might be available to support development of proposals.

## Expression of interest form

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Organisation details – name, description, address |   |
| 2 | Primary contact details – name, email address  |   |
|  |  |  |
| 3 | What is your vision for *a What Works Centre for Safety*, and what approach would you take to establishing it?You may wish to consider:* The areas of safety the centre would lead on and how this would link to the Foundation’s mission
* How impact would be generated and on what timescale
* How you would ensure global reach, applicability and impact
* Who the key global stakeholders should be
 |   |
|  |  |  |
| 4 | What makes your organisation a suitable leader or partner in this initiative?Please detail relevant knowledge, experience in similar work, expertise, capacity, networks and established partnerships, connections etc, and the role that you would expect to play. |  |
|  |  |  |
| 5 | What opportunities for leveraged funding could you bring to a partnership and how could the centre achieve diversified income and financial stability in the long term? |  |
|  |  |  |
| 6 | Any other information of relevance that you would like to provide? |  |

1. Bazalgette, L (2020) [A Practical Guide for Establishing an Evidence Centre](https://www.nesta.org.uk/report/practical-guide-establishing-evidence-centre/) AUE, NESTA [↑](#footnote-ref-2)