

## Safety of food – evidence context – brief

**April 2020**

Lloyd's Register Foundation is seeking to commission, via a grant, research into the role of evidence in food safety.

The findings of this research will be published by the Foundation to contribute to the body of knowledge on food safety and will also inform the implementation of the Foundation's strategy in this area.

Interested applicants are asked to respond to the brief below with a proposal by **7 July 2020**. The deadline for the project's completion is **27 November 2020**. Please see below for full details. Please note that, with the exception of our small grants scheme, we are unable to award grants to individuals.

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### Introduction to Lloyd's Register Foundation

Founded in 2012, Lloyd's Register Foundation is a UK charity with global reach and the sole shareholder of the Lloyd's Register Group. With a [mission to protect the safety of life and property](#), and to advance transport and engineering education, the Foundation has an important role to play in meeting the challenges of today and the future. For more information about the Foundation and the critical infrastructure-related challenges it focuses upon, read our [new strategy](#).

Following the publication in 2019 of the Foundation's [Foresight Review of Food Safety](#), we are looking to better understand a number of aspects of food safety. The Foundation interprets food safety as stretching beyond the safety of food products for consumers, and incorporating the occupational safety of workers in the industry, of the infrastructure including supply chains, and of the environment.

This brief sets out a two-stage approach to research into the role of evidence within food safety. A separate commission asks similar questions about safety at sea, and a third commission will look into three specific aspects of food safety: occupational safety in the aquaculture industry, the impact of improved traceability on the safety of food, the impact of skills and/or education interventions on food safety.

### Task outline

The Foundation's 2019 strategy focuses our work on seven key challenges and 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

- Synthesize evidence to identify and understand safety challenges, and what works
- Understand evidence needs and support evidence into practice

To achieve this, we need to understand the evidence context in which safety interventions will be used. This will enable the development of theories of change that explain how the methods that we plan to apply will achieve the desired aims and objectives.

### **Evidence ecosystem assessment**

The scoping stage of the work will build an understanding of the evidence architecture in place within food safety. We are seeking answers to the following questions:

1. What products exist to support decision making to ensure safety of food?
2. How evidence-based are these products?
3. Who is producing and brokering them?

The results of this scoping stage will inform the approach to subsequent work, which is likely to include building understanding of how existing evidence products are used, developing an evidence gap map, and undertaking an evidence needs assessment with users.

### **Outputs**

Publication-ready text for a public-facing report (that the Foundation will have designed for digital platforms and/or print).

The submitted text should include a one-page handout summary of the work; an executive summary (approx. three pages) and then the report proper (approx. 25 pages). Further detail can be included in appendixes, for example:

- outline of methodological approach
- list of interviews conducted
- databases and other sources searched/consulted
- bibliography
- network map

The grant-holder should work with the Foundation to identify, as far as possible, communications narratives emerging from the research and keep this need in mind when writing up the research to ensure that its key messages are clear and easily digestible.

### **Timescale**

Deadline for applications	<b>7 July 2020</b>
Applicants receive response by	<b>31 July 2020</b>
Deadline for draft outputs for review	<b>30 October 2020</b> (subject to discussing implications of COVID19).

Final deadline for completed outputs	<b>27 November 2020</b> (subject to discussing implications of COVID19).
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## Requirements

Interested parties are asked to outline their proposed approach using the question prompts below and submitted via the Foundation's online funding portal <https://lrfoundation.flexigrant.com/> by **7 July 2020**.

The Foundation may share anonymised applications with third-party reviewers.

A budget of up to £20,000 is available for the scoping stage of this work, and up to £150,000 for subsequent stages. The successful applicant organisation will receive 50% of agreed scoping stage funding upon contract signing and 50% upon project completion. The budget for subsequent stages will reflect the work agreed.

Name of organisation:	
Description of organisation:	
Number of employees (approx.):	
Address of organisation:	
Name of primary contact:	
Email address of primary contact:	
Phone number of primary contact:	
What is your proposed approach to the tasks outlined?	
What input would you need from the Foundation - e.g. advice on organisations and publications to	

consult? (The Foundation and grant-holder will schedule regular communications for advising and updating.)	
What capacity and capability does your organisation have for this work?	
What experience does your organisation have in conducting similar work?	
What (approximate) budget would you need to complete this work? Please include a detailed breakdown of costs including, for example: staff time and day rate, travel, databases or other subscriptions:	

**Questions?**

Please contact [info@lrfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@lrfoundation.org.uk) with the email subject 'Food evidence context brief'.