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## **RESEARCH TENDER CALL**



## **TENDER INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**Project Reference No.: 03-2022**

**Project Title: Applied interventions to promote good hand hygiene practices**


### **1. Objective/Knowledge Gap:**

The specific objectives are:

- To establish a baseline of real actual compliance with good handwashing practice in public toilets
- To design novel interventions for promoting good handwashing practices
- To assess the effectiveness of the interventions in public toilets

### **2. Background**

Good handwashing practice and compliance - knowing how and when to do it and routinely doing it – is recognised as one of the most effective methods in preventing the spread of a range of communicable diseases. Foodborne illness, such as that caused by *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and STEC, as well as norovirus, can be easily spread through poor hand hygiene. Food can become contaminated through contact with contaminated surfaces and directly from infected food handlers. Most of the research on handwashing behaviour has focused on healthcare settings and highlights that most handwashing practice and compliance is poor. Community settings such as public toilets have not been researched as extensively. Previous **safefood** research found that only 17% of adults in an observational study in public toilets washed and dried their hands adequately<sup>1</sup>.

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### **3. Approach**

This will be a mixed methods study, involving a baseline observational study of hand hygiene behaviour, the design of novel interventions, and testing of the effectiveness of the interventions.

When considering observational approaches and possible interventions, **safefood** encourages innovative thinking and experimental solutions and ideas. Types of interventions may include (but are not limited to) technological, sensory-based and structural changes. Such approaches might be informed by behaviour science and consumer psychology.

**safefood** considers it advantageous or even highly desirable if applicants had secured prior permission from owners / managers of premises with public toilets who are willing to participate in the research.

Please note that a literature review is not required for this project – in excess of 90% of the work will focus on establishing the baseline and testing of innovative solutions/interventions.

### **4. Technical Specification**


#### **(a) Scope of research**

This project will study the effectiveness novel interventions designed to improve handwashing behaviour. A baseline study to examine current hand hygiene behaviour will also be required. From the results, a set of recommendations for improving hand hygiene practices in public toilets will be developed.

#### **(b) Qualitative and quantitative work**

In this study, four premises will be selected, and a baseline observational study will be conducted across these premises. The sample size for this portion of the study will be 600. The studies should include:

- A fifty-fifty split between ROI and NI

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- Rural/urban locations
- Male/ female divide
- A range of adults ages (to include those in older age groups, and parents of young children)
- Types of premises to be recruited include (but are not limited to) shopping centres, service stations and cinema public toilets. Sample size for this setting should be 400 people (300 NI, 300 ROI).

Following the baseline study, three novel interventions designed to improve hand hygiene behaviour will be developed. These interventions will then be tested, over time (to allow for user fatigue), in an observational study at the same four premises, again with a sample size of 400.

### **(c) Analysis**


The contractor will provide explicit details of the methods for quantitative and qualitative analysis.

### **(d) Data Handling and Reporting**

After the first six month period, the contractor will submit to **safefood** an interim report detailing progress for each deliverable of the project.

The contractor is responsible for collating all outcomes and a project final project report will be submitted to **safefood** on completion of the study.

All forms, documentation and electronic files must be retained by the contractor until further notice from **safefood** in case of issues arising after the completion of the research.

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### **(e) Quality Assurance**

The contractor will use validated methods for quantitative work where applicable and provide explicit details of the qualitative analytical methods.

**safefood** will visit the contractors during the course of the research to assess how the work is being carried out.

### **5. Proposed Activities/Deliverables**

This project will involve:

- A baseline observational study to establish current practice in relation to hand hygiene in public toilets (four premises).
- The design and development of three novel interventions aimed at improving hand hygiene behaviour
- A further observational study to test the three interventions in each of the four premises.
- Analysis of data, reporting, and the development of recommendations.
- The preparation of a project report


### **6. Evaluation of Tenders**

Quality of the proposal:

- ✓ Anticipated deliverables;
- ✓ Research method and facilities;
- ✓ Value for money;
- ✓ Potential for application;
- ✓ Work plan, including the overall timeframe.

Quality of Applicants:

- ✓ Experience in subject area;
- ✓ Quality Assurance and Quality Control measures in place.

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## **7. Duration of Project**

It is anticipated that the duration of the project will be 12 months. A detailed timescale of research should be submitted by each applicant.

## **8. Tender Application Forms and Guidelines**

The Tender Application Form and associated Guidelines can be downloaded from [www.safefood.net/research-tender-2022](http://www.safefood.net/research-tender-2022). They can also be obtained by emailing [research@safefood.net](mailto:research@safefood.net), quoting the project reference number. Alternatively, please contact **safefood** as per the details below.

Ms. Gillian Fox  
 Research Coordinator  
**safefood**  
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**The closing date** for receipt of applications by **safefood** is no later than **4pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**.

## **9. References**

1. **safefood** (2021) Do people wash their hands after using the toilet?. Available at: [Do people wash their hands after using the bathroom? \(safefood.net\)](http://www.safefood.net)