

POSITION: Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Manager
ORGANISATION: Valley Group
INDUSTRY/SECTOR: Construction
SOCIAL:



Member Profile:

Frazer Lowrie MIIRSM RSP

In this interview, Frazer Lowrie highlights his career to date, the reasons why he became a risk and safety management professional and how joining IIRSM can help you build and strengthen your skills, and support professional development

Tell us about your background, your current role and IIRSM membership grade

My current position is Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Manager at Valley Group, a thriving construction business based in Glasgow, Scotland. The company has seven divisions that oversee mechanical, energy efficiency, fire and security, maintenance, (electrical) compliance and electrical projects.

As the "competent person", I am directly accountable to the Managing Director and lead, provide advice and liaise with the company's directors and management team on all health, safety, quality and environmental matters across all six divisions.

I joined IIRSM in 2019 as a member and currently hold Recognised Safety Practitioner status, although I am currently working to become an IIRSM Fellow.

What prompted you to become a risk and safety management professional?

Like many risk and safety management professionals, I fell into this role. When I left school, my original plan was to go to university, but instead I took up an apprenticeship. The end goal I set myself was to become a project manager with an ambition to build skyscrapers and football stadiums.

However, I soon realised that this wasn't for me. Around this time, I started to provide support to health and safety onsite, through toolbox talks, managing contractors, overseeing the revision of risk assessments and providing site inspections.

Since then, I have held various roles

in the construction, manufacturing and engineering sectors and have focused on quality, environmental and health and safety risk. Over the past nine years I have steadily progressed professionally.

In this career, I've found that no two days are the same. Although the role can be challenging, I help teams to get home safely at the end of each day. At the same time, I protect the reputation of the different teams and the wider business and also help drive growth.

Tell us about why you joined IIRSM and how it has helped you

I joined IIRSM because I'm passionate about protecting people and the planet. IIRSM's vision is "A future where people live and work in a safer, healthier and more sustainable

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world” and this closely aligns with my own personal values and professional mission.

IIRSM membership is global and its members represent all walks of life, spanning a wide range of industries. In addition, the professional body and its members are very open and extremely active on social media such as LinkedIn.

I like being able to communicate with a lot of like-minded individuals. Even though risk and safety professionals can work in different industries, the values and personal motivations they hold are very similar to mine.

This openness and willingness to share means that I can develop and build my knowledge around managing risks on a whole spectrum of issues, including health, safety and wellbeing, cyber security, supply chains, the environment, compliance and day-to-day operations.

IIRSM provides webinars that, typically, are delivered every month and are recorded. This is particularly useful for my continuing professional development.

Recently, IIRSM created the 1% safer bursary to support the development of risk and safety professionals in developing countries. This greatly helps its members contribute to a global movement to make the world a better place.

How can IIRSM membership help risk and safety management professionals?

IIRSM provides great resources and its membership represents a diverse range of industries.

As someone who is solely responsible for managing health, safety, quality and environmental risks, it can be lonely at times, so I greatly value the access I have to a supportive network of like-minded risk and safety professionals who can offer a fresh perspective and invaluable experience.

The professional body's Sentinel magazine offers a lot of expertise and can be accessed in print and online. Members can also tap into a wealth of legal and technical help from IIRSM. I've certainly found this invaluable in providing further clarification and support on some challenges I've faced in my career to date.

Finally, IIRSM's competence framework helps members identify their strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. Personally, I found this has really benefited my professional development.