

Findings of an office ergonomics survey

Ruth SIMS

University of Derby Online Learning, Enterprise Centre, Derby, UK.

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1. Introduction

Previous work into workers' perceptions and experiences with the physical design of their workplace has shown that there are pros and cons to both open plan offices and also private offices, and that having some control over workplace environment leads to more positive outcomes for staff (Lee & Brand, 2005).

A company planning a move of premises was surveyed with regard to current experiences and expectations for the move, compared with a repeated survey a few months post-move. Proactive ergonomics actions in office environments can improve job satisfaction and staff retention (HFES, 2014). Previous work on office moves to co-locate workers who were not in the same building previously (as is the case for the company being surveyed) indicates that staff perceptions of workplace design giving opportunities for interaction with co-workers can be predictors of their perceptions of interactions post-move (Rashid, 2013). The survey considered aspects of office ergonomics including: technology used, input devices, seating, lighting and other environmental factors, issues surrounding flexible working availability and uptake, and self-report of discomfort experienced whilst working, amongst others.

2. Methods

An online questionnaire link (using Qualtrics) was sent to all staff (approximately 60 people in total) within the company before the planned move to new premises. In the first survey 24 people (6 men, 18 women) responded, and the second survey (post-premises move) is in progress with the same survey having again been sent to all staff.

3. Results

The pre- and post-premises move survey will allow some comparison of expectations and reality with respect to the move of offices. The data included will be an overview of some of the issues being surveyed:

- Use of flexible working practices
- Hours worked over contractual hours
- Use of tablets, desktop and laptop devices
- Use of input devices and other equipment
- Issues with office environment pre- and post-move

References

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