Commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive, IOM conducted a research study in 2007 into the ill-health linked with Display Screen Equipment (DSE) including musculoskeletal disorders, mental stress and visual fatigue. The research provided data on work-related illness in the UK from display screen equipment and determined the strength of the published scientific evidence in relation to risk of ill-health.

The research found that those reporting ill-health were more likely to report signs of stress, depression or anxiety. Compared to a similar IOM survey conducted 15 years earlier, the situation had scarcely changed to date, even though the legislation had been tightened. The work has led to improved understanding and awareness of the complex interrelationship between physical and psychological health problems.