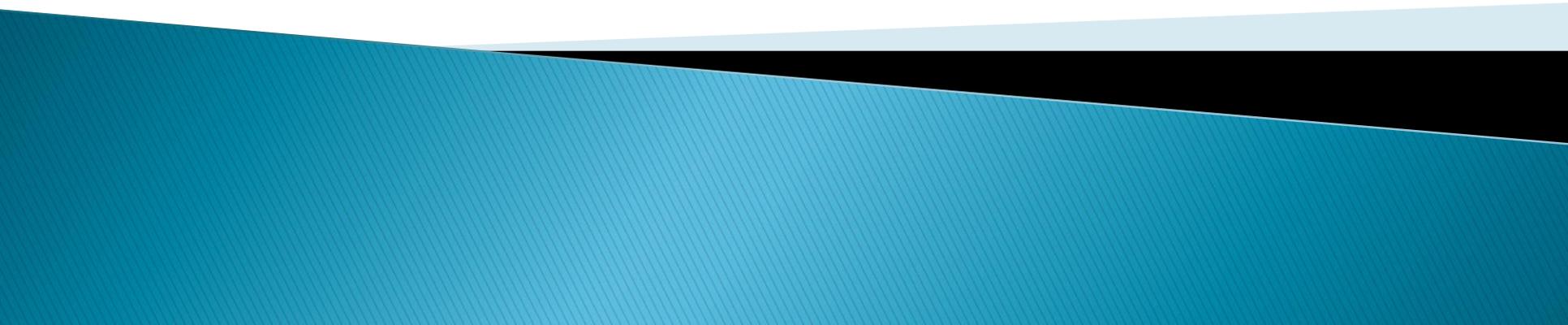


**Which students should be included in a health surveillance programme?**

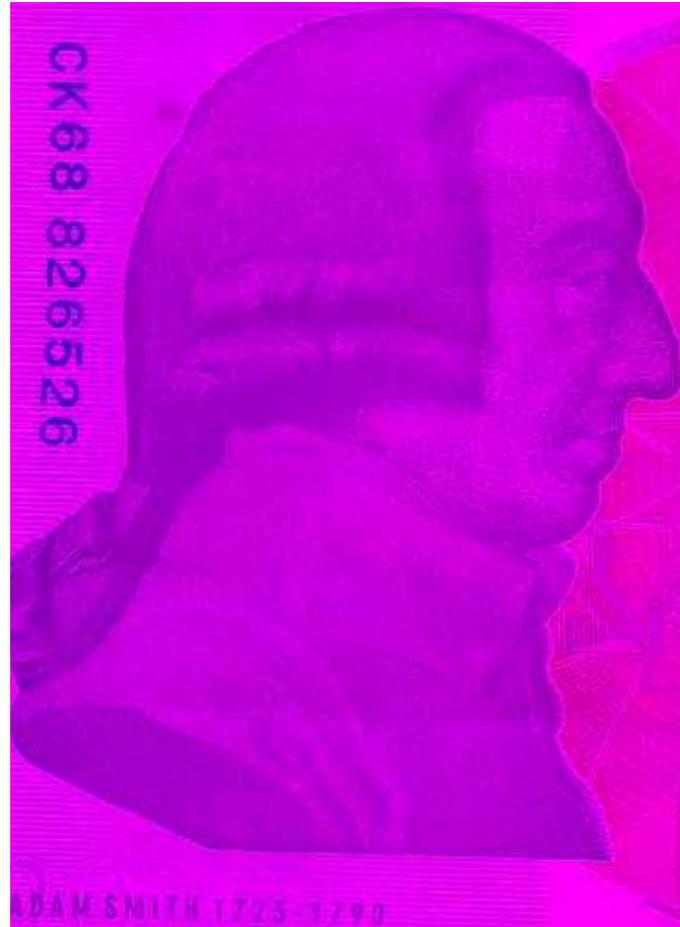


The discipline of colleges and universities is in general contrived, not for the benefit of the students, but for the interest, or more properly speaking, for the ease of the masters.

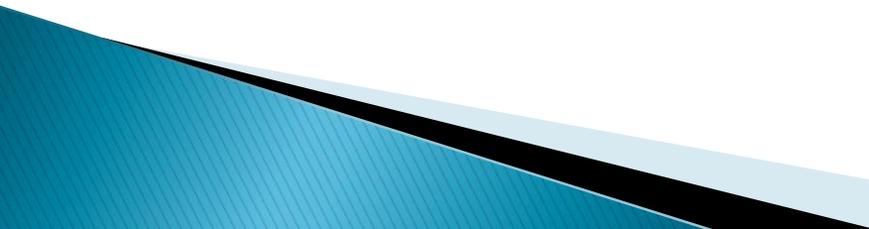


# Adam Smith

## The Wealth Of Nations



# What does COSHH say?

- Health surveillance shall be treated as being appropriate where –
- ▶ the employee is exposed to one of the substances specified in Column 1 of Schedule 6 and is engaged in a process specified in Column 2 of that Schedule, and there is a reasonable likelihood that an identifiable disease or adverse health effect will result from that exposure; or
  - ▶ the exposure of the employee to a substance hazardous to health is such that –
  - ▶ an identifiable disease or adverse health effect may be related to the exposure,
  - ▶ there is a reasonable likelihood that the disease or effect may occur under the particular conditions of his work, and
  - ▶ there are valid techniques for detecting indications of the disease or effect,
  - ▶ and the technique of investigation is of low risk to the employee.
- 

# What does HSG 61 day?

- ▶ Health surveillance is required where you answer 'yes' to *all* the following:
  - ▶ Is the work known to damage health in some particular way?
  - ▶ Are there valid ways to detect the disease or condition?\* Health surveillance is only worthwhile where it can reliably show that damage to health is starting to happen or becoming likely. A technique is only useful if it provides accurate results, is safe and practical.
  - ▶ Is it reasonably likely that damage to health may occur under the particular conditions at work?
  - ▶ Is surveillance likely to benefit the employee?

So – We have only have a legal obligation under COSHH to undertake health surveillance for employees at work.



- ▶ At the University of Liverpool we regard postgraduate and undergraduate students as employees for the purposes of risk assessment, health surveillance and safety controls.
  - ▶ We justify this because:
    1. We care so much about our darling students.
    2. Our legal advice has suggested that the University would have exactly the same level of responsibility in law as we have towards employees, if a student were to suffer an adverse health effect due to exposure during training or study.
  - ▶ We currently run health surveillance programmes for:
    1. Asthagens
    2. Noise
    3. Hand arm Vibration
    4. Latex
- 

# Conclusion:

Those students who are at risk and meet COSHH regulation 11 criteria should be included in a health surveillance programme.



- ▶ Dr N Wilson
- ▶ Consultant Occupational Physician
- ▶ The University of Liverpool

▶ November 2012

