

September 2016

Trust in water

Information for applicants

**Senior Associate (Media Relations),
Corporate Communications
Ref: 1605**

www.ofwat.gov.uk

ofwat



Introduction from Cathryn Ross, Chief Executive



Water is not a dry issue.

The water sector in England and Wales has come a long way in the past 25 years. At privatisation, polluted beaches and rivers and neglected infrastructure meant we were seen as the ‘dirty man of Europe’.

The regulation of this sector was entrusted to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) which has maintained a steady hand in driving and incentivising the sector to deliver and to improve. Over the period since privatisation, the water companies have invested more than £116 billion in maintaining and improving services for consumers and the environment. Today, for example, the amount of water lost through leaks is down by about a third since the mid-1990s. In addition, salmon have returned to the River Mersey, once considered one of the most polluted in Europe. All of this has been delivered efficiently too – a litre of tap water, supplied and taken away, costs less than half a penny.

But the world is changing. The water sector faces new problems and very different challenges. In the future, climate change may mean we get more droughts and more floods, making it harder to maintain resilient supplies. Our population is growing, putting more pressure on the water we use. Lifestyle changes have increased our appetite for water in our homes, our work places and our places of leisure. The changing social and economic landscape also means we need to reconsider how business operates and how customers are able to afford their water and sewerage bills.

Ofwat needs to be at forefront of determining and implementing a regulatory system that will protect customers’ interests, drive efficiencies and innovation, enable efficient companies to finance their functions and to ensure that the ‘promises of privatisation’ are delivered. We all need sustainable solutions to these problems.

To do this, Ofwat needs to be at the very top of its game. The Senior Associate will play a key role in ensuring that Ofwat responds to the media effectively. Thank you for your interest in joining Ofwat at what is a very exciting time for us. We look forward to receiving your application.

Cathryn Ross
Ofwat Chief Executive

About Ofwat and the role

Ofwat (the Water Services Regulation Authority) is the economic regulator of the water and wastewater sector in England and Wales. Our role is to help it build trust and confidence with customers, the environment and wider society. Our strategic priorities include:

- delivering the reforms provided for in the Water Act 2014 and help to ensure that they deliver real benefits for water customers and society. This includes putting in place the arrangements for the opening of the non-household retail market to competition in April 2017. It also includes supporting the development of water trading and abstraction reform. Doing these things will require further changes to the way we set prices in our 2019 review;
- maintaining the confidence of investors in the water sector and our regulation of it, though this period of change; and
- developing the means by which we monitor the sector's performance against our vision of trust and confidence, and receive assurance from the sector.

Corporate Communications resource pool

Corporate Communications in Ofwat is an essential tool for the delivery of our strategy, working across the business to encourage effective engagement and communication amongst our own people and with external audiences. To achieve this, the Corporate Communications resource pool fulfil three distinct roles.

First, increasing the impact and effectiveness of other regulatory tools (e.g. our casework, our financial monitoring or price setting). Corporate Communications' expertise can help our programmes get the right messages to the right audiences (including internal audiences) in the most effective way.

Secondly, Corporate Communications can be used as a strategic tool in its own right across all our programmes (e.g. by building stakeholder relationships, ensuring transparency and managing our brand).

Finally, Corporate Communications has a unique role in bringing our strategy to life both for our people and external audiences. It does this by understanding and explaining how Ofwat's work as a whole delivers benefits and outcomes for customers and, ultimately, builds trust in water.

Role expectations

Our senior associates play a key role in our programmes, perhaps leading a work-stream or managing a small project. The successful candidate will work on one or more programmes, to ensure that we're delivering our strategic communications objectives to time and to budget, and contributing to the effective identification and management of strategic risk and opportunities.

This role will require the successful candidate to:

- manage and improve our day-to-day media relations, and lead on our approach to the media;
- turn complex policy into accessible messaging; and
- work with the Corporate Communications resource pool to support, advise and implement effective strategic communications across Ofwat.

Key deliverables

Manage our media relations on a day-to-day basis, including:

- handling reactive media enquiries, and providing advice across Ofwat on media handling
- building relationships with journalists
- writing and issuing press notices
- taking an active role in promoting Ofwat's work and strategy through the press
- evaluating and reporting on our press and media performance with insights for improvements

Engage with colleagues to understand often complex, technical policy and turn this into accessible, compelling key messages.

Develop and deliver a media relations strategy, building on our overall communications strategy and ensuring that we use the media effectively to reach our target audience.

Provide wider support to the Corporate Communications resource pool, as required.

Professional requirements

	Critical	Expected
Qualifications	Degree level qualification or equivalent	
Experience	<p>Experience of media handling, including dealing with national, regional and trade press, as well as broadcast media.</p> <p>Experience of managing print and broadcast journalists, and proactively developing news and media relations</p> <p>Experience of managing contributions from others, both within and external to Ofwat</p> <p>Experience of being able to plan ahead (forward planning) and joining up thinking strategically.</p> <p>Experience of horizon scanning; identifying issues and challenges in the external environment and developing appropriate responses</p> <p>Proficient in being able to challenge and influence the thinking of internal colleagues and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Experience of influencing senior internal and external stakeholders</p>	Experience of using social media to achieve set goals/ objectives
Knowledge	Knowledge of media monitoring and evaluation.	

Terms and conditions of employment

Contract

This is a permanent appointment.

Salary

The salary range for this role is £32,063 – 42,000 depending on relevant skills and experience required for the post. Salary is paid monthly by credit transfer.

Location

The role will be based in either Birmingham or London. However, it is likely that travel between offices and throughout the UK will be needed to be effective.

Contracted place of work and taxable expenses

Any person who regularly works more than two days a month in both the Birmingham and London offices, irrespective of their contracted place of work, is considered by HMRC to have [two permanent workplaces](#).

The payment of your rail fare, accommodation or subsistence in this situation attracts tax and National Insurance because you are receiving a benefit.

Ofwat meets the cost of the tax and National Insurance by grossing up your expenses and recovering the net amount through your monthly pay package. But the expenses are classed as taxable earnings, which could impact on any attachment of earnings – for example, student loan repayments, high income child benefit and state benefits.

For further information on taxable expenses, please email payroll@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk.

Hours of work

The successful post holder will be required to work a minimum of 37 hours, excluding lunch breaks. You will be required to work such additional hours as is reasonable and necessary for the efficient performance of your duties.

Probation

There is a probationary period of six months for all new entrants. Subject to satisfactory performance, the post holder will be transferred to permanent establishment at the end of their probation.

Annual leave

On appointment the post holder will be entitled to 25 days annual leave plus 10½ days' public and privilege holidays a year. Annual leave entitlement will be increased

by one day for each year of continuous employment with Ofwat, up to a maximum leave allowance of 30 days.

Pension

On appointment, you are eligible to join the Civil Service Pension. The Civil Service offers a choice of defined benefit and stakeholder pensions, giving you the flexibility to choose the pension that suits you best. We offer you a choice of two types of pension.

Alpha: alpha is an occupational pension scheme and provides a defined benefit worked out on a Career Average basis.

From 1 April 2016, employee contributions will be:

Payband (full-time equivalent basis)		Employee contribution rate (%)
From	To	
£0.00	£21,210	4.60
£21,211	£48,471	5.45
£48,472	£150,000	7.35
£150,001	and above	8.05

From 1 April 2016, employer contributions will be:

Payband (full-time equivalent basis)		Employer contribution rate (%)
From	To	
£0.00	£22,500	20
£22,501	£45,000	20.9
£45,001	£75,000	22.1
£75,001	and above	24.5

Partnership: this is a stakeholder pension with a contribution from Ofwat. How much we pay is based on your age. We pay this regardless of whether you choose to contribute anything. You do not have to contribute but, if you do, we will also match your contributions up to 3% of your pensionable earnings. The contributions are in addition to the age-related contribution mentioned above.

To learn more about the Civil Service Pension schemes, please follow the link <http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/>

Ofwat benefits

We also offer a range of additional benefits. These include:

- access to our package of benefits via our 'Rewards on Tap' scheme. This is a voluntary benefits scheme where staff have access to exclusive discounts on a range of goods and services such as retail outlets, theatre tickets, holidays, insurance and gym membership;
- childcare voucher scheme;
- cycle-to-work scheme;
- season ticket loan for travel between home and office;
- flexible working arrangements;
- fees paid for membership of relevant professional bodies;
- regular professional development;
- health and wellbeing initiatives such as mini-medicals, flu vaccinations, employee assistance programme and occupational health; and
- free eye tests and contribution towards lenses/spectacles for VDU users, if appropriate.

Further information

Security clearance

Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory completion of security and pre-employment checks. Further information about the security checking procedure is available on request.

Nationality and immigration control

This post is open to nationals of states within the British Commonwealth and the European Economic Area (EEA) and certain members of their families. There must be no employment restriction or time limit on your permitted stay in the UK.

If you would like further information on Nationality and Immigration Control, please email us at people@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk.

Stocks or shares

Because of the nature of the information you will come into contact with and the need to be wholly independent of the water sector in England and Wales, you and your family (including your spouse or civil partner and any children or step-children under the age of 18 who still live at home, or any other member of your household) will be precluded from owning, purchasing or dealing in the shares of the water companies and their holding companies.

How to apply

Applications should include a:

- curriculum vitae (**CV**);
- **covering letter** or supporting statement that outlines the contribution you can make to Ofwat, including how you feel you meet our professional requirements and demonstrate behaviours outlined in our competency framework;
- completed **CV supplement form**; and
- completed **diversity monitoring form**. This form is not mandatory.

Please email your CV and supporting documents to recruitment@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk by the closing date.

If you are unable to make an electronic application, you may submit your application on paper. Please contact us to find out how.

Selection timetable

Closing date	5.00pm, Monday 26 th September
Sifting	27 th September
Interview date	w/c: 3 rd October

If you have any queries about any aspect of this role or selection process, please call Michelle Randall, on 0121 644 7501.

Expenses

We will refund travelling costs at the rate of standard rail fare for the journey or motor mileage rates (cars: 25p per mile).

Please note that proof of purchase will be required for all public transport expenses.

We cannot refund expenses for travel into the UK. If you have to stay overnight, please contact recruitment@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk for further details.

Data protection

We will use your application only to inform the selection process, after which we will destroy it. If you are successful, it will form the basis of your personal record with us and we will store it in manual and electronic files.

We will hold any data about you in completely secure conditions, with restricted access. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

We will include data that you provide on the diversity monitoring form in a general database for statistical monitoring purposes only, enabling us to monitor the effectiveness of our policy on equal opportunities in employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

We shall consider that, by applying for this role, you are giving your consent to the processing of your data in the ways described above.

Diversity

Ofwat aims to be an equal opportunities employer. We intend to make sure that there is equality of opportunity and fair treatment for all irrespective of:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership status;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race, religion or belief; or
- sex or sexual orientation.

We would like to assure you that we will treat the information you provide on the diversity monitoring form in the strictest confidence and only use it to help us monitor appropriate equal opportunities policies. This information plays no part in our selection process.

Investors in People (IIP)

Ofwat has IIP accreditation which reflects good management practices throughout our organisation, including in business planning, individual objective setting, learning and development opportunities, as well as continuous constructive feedback through our delivery and development conversations approach to performance management.

Complaints procedure

The process of recruitment and assessment embraces the principles of fair and open competition and best practice. The first is to maintain the principle of selection for appointment to the Civil Service on merit on the basis of fair and open competition as outlined in the [Civil Service Recruitment Principles](#). The second is to promote an understanding of the [Civil Service Code](#) which sets out the constitutional framework in which all civil servants work and the values they are expected to uphold, and to hear and determine appeals made under it.

If feel your application has not been treated in accordance with the recruitment principles and you wish to make a complaint, you should contact Natasha Harris, Principal, Operations (People), Ofwat, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA in the first instance. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive from us you can contact the Civil Service Commission