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Trust in water

Information for applicants

Principal – Strategy & Policy
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www.ofwat.gov.uk

ofwat



Introduction from Rachel Fletcher, Chief Executive



Water is not a dry issue.

The water sector in England and Wales has come a long way in the past 27 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 £140 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 to have trust and confidence in the water and wastewater services we receive.

To do this, Ofwat needs to be at the very top of its game. Thank you for your interest in joining Ofwat at what is a very exciting time for us. We look forward to receiving your application.

Rachel Fletcher
Ofwat Chief Executive

About Ofwat and the role

Ofwat 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:

- Working with the sector to improve the customer experience in particular by improving resilience, delivering a step change in customer service, maintaining affordability and driving efficiency.
- Improving information and transparency in the sector to hold companies to account.
- Supporting the development and investability of markets, to enable the sector to deliver more for less.
- Securing stakeholder engagement and support for change.
- Ensuring Ofwat has the skills, experience, systems, processes and culture to deliver the strategy.

Our focus as a regulator is on regulating in a pro-market way which means establishing an effective framework that improves information (e.g. quality and visibility); improves buyers' and sellers' ability to transact (e.g. reducing 'transaction costs'); and/or by improving incentives on buyers and sellers to transact efficiently. In addition, we will look to make targeted interventions only, rather than taking a prescriptive, one-size-fits-all approach.

Strategy & Policy Resource Pool

Our Strategy & Policy resource pool focuses on strategic policy development and implementation.

The pool operates across all programmes on key strategic issues. It identifies need, assesses options and delivers and implements new policy. It also identifies what we should be doing more of and what we should be doing less of.

A key function of the pool is to ensure that policy across all projects and programmes are aligned with corporate strategy and priorities. It ensures that we're driving in the right direction, focusing on the right issues, with the right partners and doing the right things, playing a key role in all our programmes.

Role expectations

The role requires expertise in developing and implementing Ofwat policy internally and externally, with a particular focus on the water resources planning framework in the first instance. Knowledge of water resources planning framework, and key sectoral issues in general, is central to this role.

Our ambition is to create a regulatory framework that fully supports strategic, ambitious and collaborative water resource plans, which help deliver resilient water supplies for the long term. The successful candidate will lead our work in this area and will:

- work with the Environment Agency, Defra and the Drinking Water Inspectorate to support the newly established National Framework for Water Resources¹. This National Framework will develop and present agreed evidence on water deficits, which will inform specific expectations and set clear challenges to the sector for long term planning on water supply and demand (undertaken through the development of company specific water resource management plans).
- work with companies on existing collaborative schemes to identify issues relating to regulatory processes, the need for new institutions or commercial frameworks, or the need to resolve potentially conflicting objectives.
- work with other relevant stakeholders to identify opportunities to deliver multiple benefits to customers and the environment; and to highlight areas of potential tension between conflicting objectives and approaches.

Because Ofwat operates a matrix working structure, the post holder will over time increasingly work on other areas within Ofwat. In common with other people in the strategy & policy pool therefore the post holder will therefore need to be able to support work on a range of projects, to both utilise and develop their skills and experience, and Ofwat's broader knowledge base and skills. We will expect you to contribute to ensuring that Ofwat policy can stand up to the highest levels of external scrutiny.

¹ see <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/building-resilient-water-supplies-joint-letter-defra-environment-agency-drinking-water-inspectorate-ofwat-water-companies/>

Individuals will therefore need strong policy development skills and need to be able to think creatively to meet the challenges of the sector. The role requires working collaboration both across Ofwat and with external stakeholders, including elsewhere in government and other regulators. The ideal candidate will be able to work effectively with others while remaining focused on Ofwat's strategic priorities.

Key deliverables

We are particularly looking for candidates with demonstrable expertise in:

- The water resources planning framework, and key sectoral issues more generally
- Influencing and managing strategic policy relationships with government, regulators and NGOs; and
- Developing longer-term strategic policy, handling uncertainty and ambiguity

As with most roles in Ofwat though, you can expect to work flexibly across different programmes as your career develops, and develop new skills, knowledge and expertise. For this role we expect candidates with high quality policy development and analysis skills, who can:

- Reflect Ofwat's strategic focus and priorities, UK and Welsh government policy and wider stakeholder views.
- Identify, and seek to resolve in a timely manner, gaps in existing policy or practice through close working across Ofwat work programmes and projects.
- Take a coherent, 'big picture' approach to ensuring policy developed across programmes takes place in a consistent way and identifies and manages the policy links.
- Identify the potential risks and opportunities this might pose for other aspects of the sector that we regulate.
- Draw on strong and compelling existing or novel evidence from a broad range of internal and external sources, including utilisation of market intelligence from external bodies.
- Look beyond the water and wastewater sector, and where necessary other utility sectors, for creative and novel ways to meet the challenges the sector faces.
- Understand the need to protect the interests of water consumers, and embeds this in our approach to regulation and policy development.
- Take into account the long term needs of the sector, such as resilience, and the wider trends in approaches to regulation.

The post holder will also ensure effective stakeholder management and clear communication of policy by:

- Understanding the strategic implications of specific policies under development for different stakeholders and working in partnership with colleagues to identify the most effective way to communicate, engage and influence in light of this.
- Developing, managing and maintaining effective relationships with a broad range of stakeholders with a particular focus on effective partnership working/relationships with government (especially in Whitehall and Cardiff), other regulators, and NGOs.

Professional requirements

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	Degree level qualification or equivalent experience	Keeps industry, regulatory industry / regulatory body and professional qualifications up to date
Experience	<p>Proven successful leadership in a policy analysis and policy delivery environment</p> <p>Experience of leading strategic policy development, design and implementation</p> <p>Experience in fostering and influencing/ challenging mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders and balancing the competing interests of a number of stakeholders in a political environment.</p> <p>Experience of working flexibly and collaboratively with multi-disciplinary teams to bring policy expertise and solutions to problems and deliver joined up strategic thinking, including with external organisations</p> <p>Experience leading and managing a programme of analysis and evidence gathering to support robust decision making and influencing on a wide range of technical and economic/commercial policy issues consistent with Ofwat's direction of travel</p>	<p>Experience of organisational performance management techniques and approaches</p> <p>Managing consultancy input and advice</p>
Knowledge	In-depth industry knowledge, including of water resource planning.	In-depth knowledge of policy development

	Essential	Desirable
	<p>Understanding the relevance and the impact of best practice in policy development and being able to apply this.</p> <p>Knowledge of the political environment – political context, economic theory, policy drivers, environmental policy and industrial policy</p>	<p>process in central and devolved governments.</p> <p>Understanding the relevance and the impact of economic regulation from a regulated industry and regulatory body perspective, and being able to apply this</p> <p>Understanding the importance of the customer perspective in developing and implementing policy in regulated and unregulated sectors.</p>

Terms and conditions of employment

Contract

This is a permanent appointment.

Salary

The salary range for this role is Band 4, £49,624 - £75,904. Salaries offered will depend on relevant skills and experience required for the post. Salary is paid monthly by credit transfer.

Internal and Civil Service candidates already at this job level would normally maintain their existing salary arrangements as this would be classed as a level transfer. If applying for the role as a promotion, these candidates can typically expect to be appointed on a salary at the bottom of the band or a 10% increase to existing salary, whichever is greater.

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.

This means that you will not be required to meet the costs of travel to the office location where you are not based.

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 2018, member contributions will be based on actual salaries.

From 1 April 2018, employee contributions will be:

Actual pensionable salary (annual)	All members
Up to and including £21,636	4.60%
£21,637 to £51,515	5.45%
£51,516 to £150,000	7.35%
£150,001 and above	8.05%

From 1 April 2018, employer contributions will be:

Revised Salary Band (£)	ASLC rate from 1 April 2018
23,000 and under	20.0%
23,001 to 45,500	20.9%
45,501 to 77,000	22.1%
77,001 and over	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.

Employer age-related contributions will be:

Age at the last 6 April	ASLC rate from 1 April 2018
Under 31	8%
31 to 35	9%
36 to 40	11%
41 to 45	13.5%
46 or over	14.75%

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;
- 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; 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	1 February 2019 @ 5:00PM
Sifting	4 and 5 February
Interview date	14 and 19 February

If you have any queries about any aspect of this role or selection process, please email recruitment@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

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. If you are successful it will form the basis of your personal employee record with us and we will store it electronically within our SharePoint Electronic Document Management System (EDRMS) and our HR system iTrent. Unsuccessful applications are not retained and will be destroyed using Ofwat's secure disposal methods. If you have consented to Ofwat retaining your information for future similar employment opportunities we will retain this information and review the information annually. If at any point you decide you do not wish Ofwat to retain your information please contact us and we will ensure your information is removed from our systems, unless we are legally obliged to hold it for a further period.

We will hold any data about you in completely secure conditions and with restricted access. Information in statistical form on present and former employees in some instances is provided to appropriate outside bodies. Wherever possible Ofwat ensures that statistical information is anonymised.

We will include data that you provide on the diversity monitoring form in a general database for statistical monitoring purposes only. This enables us to monitor the effectiveness of our policy on equal opportunities in employment. If personal identifiable information (PII) has been provided by you, it will be removed before any disclosure is made.

Ofwat considers that the information you have provided during your application has been given with your explicit consent and that you agree to the processing of your personal data as explained in this document. If you have any concerns regarding the processing of some or all of your data please inform the People Hub in writing to people@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk and/or the Data Protection Officer by emailing FOI@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk. We will process your personal data in accordance with Ofwat's retention and disposal schedule which can be viewed at this link <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/retention-disposals-policy/>.

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, Director, 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 at info@csc.gsi.gov.uk.