

March 2021

**Information for applicants
Finance Business Partner, Senior
Associate (12 month Fixed Term
Contract) – Corporate Enablers
Ref: OFW– BC542 pt]**

Ofwat

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Introduction from David Black, interim Chief Executive

Water companies support all aspects of life. Safe and reliable water and wastewater services are essential for our day to day lives, our wellbeing, and our natural world.

And as the economic regulator of water and waste water in England and Wales, our role is to enable, incentivise and hold companies to account for providing the very best for customers, society and the environment now and in the future. We also oversee the markets that exist in the water sector to make sure they are working for customers.



To achieve this, we've set ourselves three goals. They are to:

- transform water companies' performance;
- drive water companies to meet long-term challenges through increased collaboration and partnerships; and
- for water companies to provide greater public value, delivering more for customers, society and the environment.

Delivering these goals will help to meet customers' needs: ensure reliable and safe water supplies today with a better environment, affordable bills and a resilient and sustainable future for water.

As we do this, we will be working to fulfil the UK and Welsh Governments' strategic priorities for Ofwat, and UK and Welsh Government policy.

We're ambitious about the future and looking for people who can help us to achieve our goals. Thanks for your interest in joining Ofwat. We look forward to receiving your application.

David Black
Ofwat Interim 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. Ofwat has an ambitious new [strategy](#) and as a regulator we are setting ourselves up to achieve and equal the ambition of this new strategy. It matters to us that things on the ground really change so that our impact on customers, the environment and the future of water is tangible and meaningful.

Our work is high-profile and fast-moving, within a dynamic and agile environment. The work that you'll be involved in every day will be about helping us to deliver our strategy, helping to us to be the regulator we want to be and helping the sector to deliver outcomes that matter to customers and society. Our strategy sets out the role Ofwat will play. We will adapt, be confident, act with purpose and integrity and continuously improve so that we make the greatest contribution possible to improving life through water.

Corporate Enablers

Our corporate cluster is at the heart of enabling Ofwat to deliver its exciting new strategy – to transform the water sector for customers, the environment and society.

Whether you work in Finance, Procurement, People, or IT/facilities– we work as one team, as Agents of Change, to provide the innovation, service and thought leadership that is needed so that Ofwat runs well as an organisation now and transforms further to meet the demands and opportunities of the future.

We want to be at the cutting edge of what support services can achieve and how we can add value to the work of Ofwat. That means us being collaborative, understanding the work we do as a regulator and where we can add value, drawing insight from data and getting out and about to learn from others in the civil service, wider public sector and commercial sector. We want our work to be purposeful, empowering, creative, ambitious and valued. In doing so we want to have fun, encourage autonomy and feel our contribution is meaningful. The role we play is that of trusted advisor, building the relationships that enable us to create solutions, take action and continually improve.

Role expectations

You will be joining at an exciting time - where the financial strategy will need to be refreshed as part of our business and operational planning with robust, strategic advice to our Senior Leadership team and Board on the financial opportunities and constraints facing Ofwat both in the short and medium term.

There is lots to do, at pace – and you will bring strong credentials in working within a similarly complex and customer focussed organisation. You'll also do that as a great team player, passionate about innovating and getting the basics right – translating technical complexity into language and actions that our people can understand – ensuring that finance enables us to be the regulator we need to be now and in the future.

The suitable candidate must be able to demonstrate flexibility and be comfortable operating in a fast paced and agile environment. The ideal candidate will be an all-rounder capable of covering all elements of the routine work of the Finance Hub, providing resilience and support to ensure that team responsibilities are completed to time against the backdrop of a small team.

Key deliverables

- Provision of services to our programmes and resource pools, including all aspects of budgeting, forecasting and reporting to ensure our financial management is in line with the financial strategy.
- Ensuring that the day to day finance activities and processes operate effectively and efficiently in accordance with documented policies and procedures. Provide effective challenge to deliver improvements whilst maintaining adequate controls.
- Acting as a strong ambassador and role model of Ofwat's SAILOR values. Playing a leadership role in financial management upskilling across the organisation.
- Responsible for the efficient and effective use of financial resources, demonstrating sound financial management and financial planning to ensure cost effectiveness and value for money in the delivery of services.
- Ensuring that analysis is well thought through and accurate through review and development of audit trails, including review of work by peers.
- Completing statutory returns and finance reports for Senior Leadership Team and Senior Directors.
- Liaising with a broad range of internal and external stakeholders by building strong relationships whilst being comfortable to challenge in order to deliver effective financial management.
- Contributing to projects with finance and across the business.
- Deputising for the Head of Finance when necessary.

Professional requirements

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCAB qualified or part-qualified • Evidence of Continuous Professional Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIPFA/ ACCA • Graduate in any discipline or relevant experience
Experience and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong budgeting, forecasting and management reporting skills that can be evidenced through experience. • Broad technical background coupled with experience of embracing business partnering, business process redesign and process change. • Ability to translate strategic issues into deliverables, taking action with little instruction to make changes that make a positive difference. • Proven track record of working with and successful management of stakeholders. • Experience of providing accurate analytical and strategic support to senior managers. • Excellent communication skills including ability to produce high quality reports and presentations for a range of audiences. • The ability to use Microsoft Excel to a high standard and communicate financial analysis effectively are essential. • Proactive and taking initiative in developing and implementing continuous improvements across within the Finance team. • A collaborative team player who demonstrates our SAILOR values and who will work effectively with the Finance team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of Management Accounting, Financial Accounting and reporting, ideally in a public sector context. • Good hands on skills with financial systems and system development would be desirable. • Resilient, tenacious, enthusiastic and confident operating in a fast paced environment.

Terms and conditions of employment

Contract

This is a 12 month Fixed Term Contract.

Salary

The salary range for Band 3 (Senior Associate) is £34,528 to £51,627. For this role external candidates can expect to achieve a starting salary from the bottom of the band up to £38,000, depending 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 Birmingham. The majority of employees are currently working from home in line with the government's advice, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.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 2021, member contributions are based on actual salaries.

From 1 April 2021, employee contributions are:

Annualised rate of pensionable earnings		Employee contribution rate
From	To	
£0	£23,100	4.60%
£23,101	£56,000	5.45%
£56,001	£150,000	7.35%
£150,001	-	8.05%

From 1 April 2020, employer contributions are:

Revised Salary Band (£)	ASLC rate from 1 April 2020
23,000 and under	26.6%
23,001 to 45,500	27.1%
45,501 to 77,000	27.9%
77,001 and over	30.3%

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 are:

Age at the last 6 April	Percentage of your pensionable earnings
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 ‘Edenred’ 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

Any move to Ofwat from another employer will mean you can no longer access childcare vouchers. This includes moves between government departments. You may however be eligible for other government schemes, including Tax-Free Childcare. Determine your eligibility at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>.

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.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.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	Friday 9 April 2021 @ 12pm (midday)
Sifting	Friday 9 April 2021
Interview date(s)	Friday 16 April 2021

Please note that during the Covid-19 pandemic interviews will be conducted via video conferencing software such as BlueJeans, Skype or Microsoft Teams.

It is expected that the interview process for this vacancy will include a short presentation and/or assessment as detailed in the above candidate pack. Further details will be provided to shortlisted candidates upon invitation to interview. It may be necessary for a second stage interview, which will be communicated to the successful candidates, if required.

If you have any queries about any aspect of this role, selection process, or you require any reasonable adjustments please email recruitment@ofwat.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.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 indicated that you would like Ofwat to retain your information for future similar employment opportunities we will retain this information. If at any point you decide you do not wish Ofwat to retain your information for these purposes 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.

Ofwat processes all the personal data you have provided during your application as set out in Ofwat's privacy policy which is available here: <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/privacy-policy/>. 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.

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 you feel your application has not been treated in accordance with the recruitment principles and you wish to make a complaint, you should contact Sarah Lal, Head of HR, Corporate Enablers (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.gov.uk.



**Ofwat (The Water Services Regulation Authority)
is a non-ministerial government department.
We regulate the water sector in England and Wales.**

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to mailbox@ofwat.gov.uk.

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