

Information for applicants Director, Policy, Outcomes and Environment, Policy and Outcomes, Ref: BC-155

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
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.

Role expectations

This role will lead the Environment work stream. This is a wide-ranging regulatory policy role where you will be responsible for encouraging and incentivising companies to work in the long-term interest of society and the environment, helping to meet Ofwat's ambition to deliver greater public value in the sector. The role will also involve supporting the governance structures necessary to deliver on the sector's environmental ambition and may involve a broader leadership role in our board leadership, transparency and governance work.

This role is at the heart of our Policy and Outcomes cluster, which aims to implement Ofwat's strategy 'time to act, together'. The cluster will deliver the best outcomes for customers, society and the environment by developing and implementing regulatory policy through a variety of tools and relationships. The role works with all other relevant parts of Ofwat, and is very closely linked in with the Company Performance and Price Review cluster which includes Ofwat's work in preparing for the next periodic price review PR24.

Key deliverables

This role will be responsible for:

- Continuing to develop and implement Ofwat's role in protecting and improving the environment. You will lead our programme of environmental work, alongside other regulators and UK and Welsh Governments. This will include ensuring future environmental investment programmes and plans for the water sector bring forward the greatest strategic benefits; strengthening the water sector's approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including designing regulatory policy and approach

for industry net zero commitments; promoting, facilitating and incentivising partnership working, catchment management and nature-based solutions; overseeing Ofwat's work on targeted areas such as storm overflows and protecting precious habitats such as chalkstreams; helping to ensure that the PR24 price review supports the efficient and effective delivery of environmental protection and improvements and embeds a public value approach; and engaging strategically with relevant stakeholders and ensuring Ofwat communicates consistently, clearly and with impact on environmental issues.

- Embedding the concept of public value in line with Ofwat's recent work in this area. With their clear geographical and environmental footprint, water companies are ideally placed to provide wider benefits to society in carrying out their core functions.
- Driving and supporting robust governance practices in the delivery of environmental and potentially wider outcomes, in particular to motivate and support companies, in their internal structures and policies, in addressing environmental issues and challenges. You may also take a broader leadership role in Ofwat's ongoing work on the board leadership, transparency and governance of regulated water companies.

For this role you will be a thought leader in public and regulatory policy with a strong delivery focus and ability to drive tangible progress in areas where thinking is still evolving. You will have a range of policy and regulatory expertise that you can deploy across the organisation with flexibility. You will be able to manage a wide portfolio of activities leading a diverse team of specialists and generalists with high degree of autonomy. You will be comfortable with adapting to changing priorities in a fast-paced environment and be comfortable with nature of the role and focus evolving over time. It will be desirable for you to have strong knowledge of environmental policy thinking and an understanding of how to promote good governance in that context in particular. You will need strong communication skills, a proven ability to engage with stakeholders in the public and private sectors and to work collaboratively across organisational boundaries.

Professional requirements

| | Essential | Desirable |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educated to degree level or equivalent in relevant area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental science, regulatory or policy qualifications. |
| Experience and Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong policy development skills and track record of thought leadership in regulatory/infrastructure space. Ability to manage a complex portfolio of work with a high degree of autonomy and deliver an ambitious agenda. Proven leadership and team management skills as well as an ability to work collaboratively across teams and across organisational boundaries. Strong stakeholder management experience and communication skills. Ability to identify opportunities and take the initiative to deliver Ofwat's strategic objectives, leveraging analytic skills and resources inside and outside the organisation. Experience of working in a regulated sector, either for a regulator, regulated company or policy making. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the relevance and the impact of economic regulation from a regulatory industry and regulatory body perspective, and being able to apply this Some understanding of the importance of the customer perspective and operating in a sector with a focus on resilience of services in the long term in developing and implementing policy in regulated and unregulated sectors. |
| Skills and behaviours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering at Pace Developing Self and Others Working Together Making Effective decisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering at Pace Communicating and Influencing |
| Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and regulatory policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental policy and science Governance best practice and trends |

Terms and conditions of employment

Contract

This is a permanent appointment.

Salary

The salary range for Band 5 is £78,971 – £118,457. For this position external candidates can expect to achieve a starting salary from the bottom of the band 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 either Birmingham or London, with travel between offices and occasional other travel as required. However, 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 2020, member contributions are based on actual salaries.

From 1 April 2020, employee contributions are:

| Actual pensionable salary (annual) | All members |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Up to and including £22,600 | 4.60% |
| £22,601 to £54,900 | 5.45% |
| £54,901 to £150,000 | 7.35% |
| £150,001 and above | 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 10th September 2021 |
| Sifting | Week commencing Monday 13th September 2021 |
| Interview date(s) | Week commencing Monday 20th September 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. 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.