

December 2021

Information for applicants

Senior Associate Water Resources Specialist – RAPID & Ofwat

Ref: BC552

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 wastewater 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.

As a Senior Associate water resources specialist, you will play a key role in the RAPID cluster alongside work in other Ofwat clusters to assist the development of Ofwat's approaches to long term water resources planning and to monitor company performance.



“
I really enjoy working at the heart of the water sector with oversight across the industry. I've developed an understanding of best practice from company to national scale. It's exciting to have the opportunity to use this insight to influence delivery of water resources and environmental strategy”
”

– Katie Woollard, Senior water resources specialist, Ofwat



RAPID cluster

Water is a precious resource. Our water resources are coming under increasing pressure from population growth, economic development and climate change. Society also expects that water will be available for users whilst also improving the environment. These factors all contribute to a growing sense of urgency that we need to act now to develop efficient new national supply options to avoid restrictions in the near future.

In response the ([Regulator’s Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development](#)) RAPID has been formed to help accelerate the development of new water infrastructure and design future regulatory frameworks. The joint team is made up of the three water regulators Ofwat, the Environment Agency and Drinking Water Inspectorate. It will provide a seamless regulatory interface, working with the industry to promote the development of national water resources infrastructure that is in the best interests of water users and the environment.

RAPID is working with water companies and alongside the five regional water resources planning groups, to ensure that we have timely delivery of new infrastructure. Where necessary, RAPID will assist the regulators in identifying and overcoming potential regulatory and commercial barriers. RAPID is overseen by a Board chaired by the Ofwat CEO, with membership from each of the regulators.

The successful applicant will be working for Ofwat but allocated to the cross-regulator RAPID cluster to support its work.



‘The innovative nature of RAPID allows three regulators to come together, collaborate and work with water companies to better understand challenges and manage risks. Ultimately, we want the sector to drive forward solutions that contribute to resilient water supplies that enhance the environment, deliver value for money, meet the needs of public health and protect customers over the long term.’

Paul Hickey, Managing Director, RAPID

Company Performance and Price Reviews cluster – PR24 and Beyond

The Company Performance and Price Reviews cluster is responsible with developing the approach for future price reviews including the next price review in 2024 (PR24). Though this may seem some time away, it is crucial that we begin to work with the sector to develop our approach to help deliver our long term goals for the sector. The development of a price control goes beyond setting the revenue limits and outcomes that we expect from companies but also includes examining how we can make greater use of markets and incentives to deliver better outcomes for customers and the environment.

We have recently published ‘[PR24 and Beyond: Creating tomorrow, together.](#)’, which shares our ideas and ambitions for the 2024 price review. In this, we set out four ambitions for what PR24 can achieve for customers and the environment, and principles for how we’ll approach and design the price review.

Role expectations

We are seeking an experienced water sector scientist, engineer or environmentalist. The successful candidate will play an important role in delivering our strategy and will need to be able to respond flexibly to the needs across the organisation. They will be deployed in the newly formed RAPID cross regulatory unit to facilitate the development of new strategic water resources infrastructure for generations to come.

This role requires a high level of technical competency, excellent written and oral communication skills, policy development skills, well developed people and stakeholder management skills, and a track record of delivery against challenging deadlines.

The successful candidate will be part of our water engineering, science and technology (WEST) professional community but be expected to work with other professionals (economists, policy specialists, data analysts, corporate finance experts and other experts) to solve regulatory problems. Our WEST professionals are not purely technical advisory. We expect them to take part in policy development and have the ability to communicate complex analysis to non-technical audiences.

You may lead a small workstream and / or manage long-term projects. You'll ensure that we're delivering on our strategic objectives on time and to budget, and also contribute to the effective identification and management of strategic risk and opportunities.

You will have a significant degree of autonomy, flexibility and responsibility. You will have ample opportunities to consolidate and expand your skill set. You are expected to be a self-starter and do not require detailed supervision from senior colleagues. You will continue to hone your judgement and be expected to exercise it responsibly in line with our strategy and ways of working. You will also be developing and using your ability to persuasively communicate and engage with stakeholders, both internally and externally. You are expected to provide technical support on water resources to colleagues across the organisation, proactively sharing skills and knowledge, and equally will be supported by coaching and mentoring.

You will continuously develop your skills through continued Learning and Development within your profession and within the RAPID cluster.

Key deliverables

Some of the key areas of work include:

- Support the strategic regional water resource solution gated assessment process including reviewing company submissions and implementing lessons learned

- Support the development of wider regulatory and commercial frameworks to support large scale multi-party infrastructure development
- Provide scrutiny, challenge and written and oral feedback on regional water resource plans and company water resources management plans
- Provide wider support of the RAPID team in delivering its [forward programme](#) and other related Ofwat clusters (primarily Future Assets & Resources and PR24 & beyond).

Professional requirements

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate qualification in engineering, scientific discipline or similar, or, equivalent professional experience within the appropriate field of expertise to this role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post graduate degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field. • Chartered status with an appropriate professional body
Experience and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of carrying out a relevant role within Government, a regulated business, water sector supply chain organisation, consultancy or in another similarly relevant position. • Experience or knowledge of developing policy in a complex organisational environment. • Proven ability of working under pressure to produce high quality analysis to tight timescales while managing competing priorities • Experience of working effectively in multi-disciplinary teams • Understanding of investment appraisal techniques. • Understanding of the processes and techniques associated with water resources management planning. • Practical knowledge of the water industry in an area such as capital programme delivery, options development, meeting environmental obligations, business planning or water business operation or management • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of investment appraisal techniques • Knowledge of net zero targets and impacts on water sector • Understanding of environmental legislation requirements and regulation including Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP)
Skills and behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The successful candidate is expected to demonstrate Civil Service Behaviours and Strengths during the recruitment process with; communicating and influencing, seeing the big picture and making effective decisions assessed based on candidates written applications and at interview. The changing and improving and working together behaviours will be tested through the interview (and presentation) which may also test strengths. • Instructions for the presentation will be provided to candidates that successfully reach the interview stage. The written application and presentation will be used to judge candidates written communication skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering at Pace • Leadership • Developing Self and Others

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A reserve list of candidates for similar roles within Ofwat may be kept for a period of up to 12 months.	
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Terms and conditions of employment

Contract

This is a permanent appointment.

Salary

The salary range for Senior Associates is Band 3 – £34,528 – £51,627. However, external candidates can expect to achieve a starting salary from the bottom of the band up to £44,000, 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

This role is based at our London or Birmingham office and this will be the designated place of work. Ofwat is an inclusive employer and flexible working is an important part of our culture. The benefits of flexible working are well recognised in improving our employees' work-life balance and supporting their health and wellbeing. There is the opportunity for blended working combining office based and working. The balance between home and workplace working is to be agreed with the line manager. and any home working arrangement does not constitute a change to your designated place of work or contractual terms and conditions. The successful candidate will be expected to pay for their commute to their normal place of work. Travel to other locations that are not your chosen normal place of work will be paid for.

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 be made on the civil service jobs website prior to the closing deadline. If you are unable to make an electronic application, you may submit your application on paper. Please contact us to find out how at recruitment@ofwat.gov.uk

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Selection timetable

Closing date	Monday 10 January 2022 at 9:00am
Sifting	11 – 13 January 2022
Interview date(s)	Week commencing 24 January 2022

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

It is expected that the interview process for this vacancy will include a short presentation. 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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