



An tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí

Public Appointments Service

Information Booklet

The Public Appointments Service intends to hold a competition for the purpose of recommending a person(s) for appointment to the position of:

**SENIOR METEOROLOGIST - HEAD OF CLIMATE SERVICES
IN MET ÉIREANN
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE**

CLOSING DATE : 3.00PM ON THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021

CID: 21339607

The Public Appointments Service is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service will run this campaign in compliance with the Code of Practice for Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA).

Codes of practice are published by the CPSA and are available on www.cpsa.ie

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL RECRUITMENT

CHAPTER HOUSE

26 – 30 ABBEY STREET UPPER

DUBLIN 1

Email: professionaltechnical@publicjobs.ie

URL: www.publicjobs.ie

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<p style="text-align: center;">Head of Climate Services Met Éireann Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</p>

Introduction

The Civil Service offers a very satisfying and varied career with competitive terms and conditions. We would like to hear from high calibre individuals with an interest in public affairs and a commitment to public service who are capable of contributing at a high level to the strategic direction of the organisation. Ideal candidates will be experienced managers, with high levels of energy, drive, resilience and motivation and the proven ability to deliver objectives.

Met Éireann.

Met Éireann, Ireland's National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) is tasked with the provision of a wide range of services related to the weather to help protect life and property and promote societal and economic wellbeing. Met Éireann provides services to a broad range of sectors including aviation, ground transport, marine and agriculture. Met Éireann also plays a key role in the State's emergency planning and management function through its production and communication of warnings related to weather hazards. Met Éireann service provision is supported by operational scientific and technical systems and a meteorological and climatological research function.

Some of Met Éireann's goals include:

- Enhance support for impact-based decision making for weather events.
- Provide climate information services which promote the safety of citizens and supports economic and environmental resilience.
- Deliver a high-quality national flood forecasting service.
- Continue to provide an effective authoritative voice on meteorology in Ireland.
- Maintain and support an expert, professional workforce.
- Lead a modern integrated meteorological infrastructure and support an enterprise environment for weather and climate services.

Met Éireann has a current staffing level of approximately 190 employees across eight divisions. The majority of staff are based at Met Éireann's headquarters at Glasnevin, Dublin close to the National Botanic Gardens, and a number of staff, involved in the provision of services to the aviation sector, are based at airport locations across the country.

Head of Climate Services

Title of Position	Head of Climate Services
Department	Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Division	Met Éireann
Location	Met Éireann HQ, Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9

1. Brief Description of the position:

The post will be at Senior Meteorologist Level with responsibility for management of Met Éireann's Climate Services Division. The newly formed Climate Services Division is responsible for developing and implementing Met Éireann's Climate Services Strategy. The division is responsible for delivering Met Éireann's Climate Services requirements, the development of tailored products related to past and future climate, providing scientific support and guidance on the use of these products to end users and liaising with external stakeholders.

This position is required to deliver Met Éireann's strategic goals related to provision of climate information services. These in turn support Government Climate Action Policy in areas related to Adaptation, Mitigation and Project Ireland 2040.

The Climate Services Division will manage Met Éireann's production and provision of high quality climate data and products to decision makers, supporting society at large, and facilitating the development and evaluation of adaptation and mitigation strategies, leading to better management of resources targeted at infrastructure and economic development.

The Head of Climate Services will be responsible for collaborations in the broad area of climate services with European and global partners and for engagement on climate services with international organisations such as EUMETNET, EUMETSAT and WMO.

2. Principal Duties:

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- (a) development and implementation of the Climate Services Strategy for the organisation; advising the Director on matters related to Climate Services;
- (b) leading the user-driven development, translation and transfer of climate knowledge to policy makers, decision-makers and the public;
- (c) leading impactful communication of climate science, knowledge and information to the public;
- (d) management of the Climate Services Division;
- (e) liaison with national and international agencies on Climate Services matters; representation of Ireland at international meetings;
- (f) keeping abreast of trends in climate services research and identifying developments that may be of interest to Met Éireann;
- (g) Providing scientific and technical leadership to the Climate Services programme;
- (h) contributing to general Met Éireann policy formation and management through membership of the Management Committee and related groups; keeping abreast of developments in Public-Service management policy;
- (i) Carry out any such other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

3. Working Environment:

It is expected that the person appointed will combine remote working with attendance at Met Éireann's Headquarters in Glasnevin, Dublin.

Work outside of normal hours may on occasion be necessary as workloads dictate. This may include weekdays and/or weekends. As already indicated, the role will generally be performed during office hours, but will require occasional travel both nationally and internationally.

4. CONTACTS required in the performance of the work:

a) Within the organisation.

An officer appointed as Senior Meteorologist will report to the Assistant Director and may be required to serve in any Division in Met Éireann. He/she will be a member of Met Éireann's Management Committee and other groups, and liaise with internal stakeholders.

b) Outside

Effective engagement with external stakeholders both nationally and internationally including WMO, EUMETNET, EUMETSAT and academia.

5. Training, other than on-the-job training, which is provided/ encouraged:

Necessary job-related training will be provided.

6. Candidates must have on or before 2 December 2021

A. ESSENTIAL for the job

- A qualification of at least Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications in a numerate scientific discipline, or equivalent qualification
- Experience of climatology, meteorology and Climate Services and their application to the delivery of weather and climate services to the State and the general public
- Excellent ability to manage staff, resources and projects activities in a scientific and technical environment
- Excellent ability to provide high quality customer services
- Excellent communications skills – both verbal and written
- Proven experience of successful contribution to projects or collaborative activities
- Excellent leadership skills and experience
- A strong capacity for strategic planning in a scientific and technical public-service environment
- Sound judgement and decision-making ability

B. DESIRABLE (but not essential) for the job

- A PhD qualification in climate science or in relevant discipline(s)
- A proven track record in climate and/or meteorological research and its application to climate services
- Experience delivering Climate Services to sectoral interests

C. Key competencies for Head of Climate Services Division

- Leadership and Strategic Direction
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Management and Delivery of Results
- Building Relationships and Communication
- Specialist Knowledge, Expertise, and Self Development.

- Drive and Commitment to Public Sector Values

Candidates will also be expected to be able to demonstrate the competencies for a role at Principal Officer level, which are listed below.

Principal Officer Level Competencies

Effective Performance Indicators

Leadership & Strategic Direction	Leads the team, setting high standards, tackling any performance problems & facilitating high performance
	Facilitates an open exchange of ideas and fosters an atmosphere of open communication
	Contributes to the shaping of Departmental / Government strategy and policy
	Develops capability and capacity across the team through effective delegation
	Develops a culture of learning & development, offering coaching and constructive / supportive feedback
	Leads on preparing for and implementing significant change and reform
	Anticipates and responds quickly to developments in the sector/ broader environment
	Actively collaborates with other Departments, Organisations and Agencies
Judgment & Decision Making	Identifies and focuses on core issues when dealing with complex information/ situations
	Assembles facts, manipulates verbal and numerical information and thinks through issues logically
	Sees the relationships between issues and quickly grasp the high level and socio-political implications
	Identifies coherent solutions to complex issues
	Takes action, making decisions in a timely manner and having the courage to see them through
	Makes sound and well informed decisions, understanding their impact and implications
Management & Delivery of Results	Strives to effectively balance the sectoral issues, political elements and the citizen impact in all decisions
	Initiates and takes personal responsibility for delivering results/ services in own area
	Balances strategy and operational detail to meet business needs
	Manages multiple agendas and tasks and reallocates resources to manage changes in focus
	Makes optimum use of resources and implements performance measures to deliver on objectives
	Ensures the optimal use of ICT and new delivery models
	Critically reviews projects and activities to ensure their effectiveness and that they meet Organisational requirements
	Instils the importance of efficiencies, value for money and meeting corporate governance requirements
Building Relationships & Communication	Ensures team are focused and act on Business plans priorities, even when faced with pressure
	Speaks and writes in a clear, articulate and impactful manner
	Actively listens, seeking to understand the perspective and position of others
	Manages and resolves conflicts / disagreements in a positive & constructive manner
	Works effectively within the political process, recognising & managing tensions arising from different stakeholders perspectives.
	Persuades others; builds consensus, gains co-operation from others to obtain information and accomplish goals
	Proactively engages with colleagues at all levels of the organisation and across other Departments// Organisations and builds strong professional networks
Specialist Knowledge, Expertise and Self Development	Makes opinions known when s/he feels it is right to do so
	Develops and maintains skills and expertise across a number of areas that are relevant to his/her field and recognised by people internal and external to the Department/ Organisation
	Keeps up to date with key departmental, sectoral, national and international policies and economic, political and social trends that affect the role
	Maintains a strong focus on self-development, seeking feedback and opportunities for growth

Drive & Commitment to Public Service Values	Consistently strives to perform at a high level
	Demonstrates personal commitment to the role, maintaining determination and persistence while maintain maintains a sense of balance and perspective in relation to work issues
	Contributes positively to the corporate agenda
	Is personally trustworthy, honest and respectful, delivering on promises and commitments
	Ensures the citizen is at the heart of all services provided
	Is resilient, maintaining composure even in adverse or challenging situations
	Promotes a culture that fosters the highest standards of ethics and integrity

Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility

Citizenship Requirements

Eligible candidates must be:

- A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or
- A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or
- A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
- A non-EEA citizen who is a spouse or child of an EEA or UK or Swiss citizen and has a stamp 4 visa; or
- A person awarded international protection under the International Protection Act 2015 or any family member entitled to remain in the State as a result of family reunification and has a stamp 4 visa or
- A non-EEA citizen who is a parent of a dependent child who is a citizen of, and resident in, an EEA member state or the UK or Switzerland and has a stamp 4 visa

To qualify candidates must be eligible by the date of any job offer.

Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the Public Service by any Public Service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility)

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER):

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are not eligible to apply for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010):

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider Public Service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years. People who availed of the VER scheme are not eligible to compete in this competition. People who availed of the VRS scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility).

Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013)

The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013 introduced a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme for Local Authorities. In accordance with the terms of the *Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants* dated 28 June 2012 as detailed above, it is a specific condition of that VER Scheme that persons will not be eligible for re-employment in any Public Service body [as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011 and the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012] for a period of 2 years from their date of departure under this Scheme. These conditions also apply in the case of engagement/employment on a contract for service basis (either as a contractor or as an employee of a contractor).

Declaration:

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a Public Service scheme of incentivised early retirement. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.

Principal Conditions of Service:

General

The appointment is subject to the Civil Service Regulations Acts 1956 to 2005 and the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and any other Act for the time being in force relating to the Civil Service.

Pay

The salary scale with effect from 1st July 2021 for this position is as follows:

Personal Pension Contribution (PPC)

€80,088 €85,296 €89,956 €94,624 €99,270 €104,041 €106,662 (LS11)
€109,954 (LS12)

The PPC pay rate applies when the individual is required to pay a Personal Pension Contribution (otherwise known as a main scheme contribution) in accordance with the rules of their main/personal superannuation scheme. This is different to a contribution in respect of membership of a Spouses' and Children's scheme, or the Additional Superannuation Contributions (ASC).

A different rate will apply where the appointee is not required to make a Personal Pension Contribution.

Long service increments may be payable after 3(LS11) and 6(LS12) years satisfactory service at the maximum of the scale.

Important Note

Entry will be at the minimum of the scale and the rate of remuneration will not be subject to negotiation and may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

Different terms and conditions may apply if you are a currently serving civil or public servant.

Subject to satisfactory performance increments may be payable in line with current Government Policy.

You will agree that any overpayment of salary, allowances, or expenses will be repaid by you in accordance with Circular 07/2018: Recovery of Salary, Allowances, and Expenses Overpayments made to Staff Members/Former Staff Members/Pensioners.

Tenure and Probation

The appointment is to a permanent position on a probationary contract in the Civil Service.

The probationary contract will be for a period of one year from the date specified on the contract. Notwithstanding this paragraph and the paragraph immediately following below, this will not preclude an extension of the probationary contract in appropriate circumstances.

During the period of your probationary contract, your performance will be subject to review by your supervisor(s) to determine whether you:

- (i) Have performed in a satisfactory manner,
- (ii) Have been satisfactory in general conduct, and
- (iii) Are suitable from the point of view of health with particular regard to sick leave.

Prior to the completion of the probationary contract a decision will be made as to whether or not you will be retained pursuant to *Section 5A(2) Civil Service Regulation Acts 1956 – 2005*. This decision will be based on your performance assessed against the criteria set out in (i) to (iii) above. The detail of the probationary process will be explained to you by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and you will be given a copy of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's guidelines on probation.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs in this section, the probationary contract may be terminated at any time prior to the expiry of the term of the contract by either side in accordance with the Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts, 1973 to 2005.

In certain circumstances your contract may be extended and your probation period suspended. The extension must be agreed by both parties.

- The probationary period stands suspended when an employee is absent due to Maternity or Adoptive Leave
- In relation to an employee absent on Parental Leave or Carers Leave, the employee may require probation to be suspended if the absence is not considered to be consistent with the continuation of the probation
- Probation may be suspended in cases such as absence due to a non-recurring illness

The employee may, in these circumstances, make an application to the employer for an extension to the contract period.

All appointees will serve a one-year probationary period. If an appointee who fails to satisfy the conditions of probation has been a serving civil servant immediately prior to their appointment from this competition, the issue of reversion will normally arise. In the event of reversion, an officer will return to a vacancy in their former grade in their former Department.

Duties

The officer will be required to perform any duties appropriate to the position which may be assigned from time to time. The position is full time and the officer may not engage in private practice or be connected with any outside business which would interfere with the performance of official duties.

Headquarters

The person appointed will be located in Met Éireann's Headquarters in Glasnevin, Dublin. Work outside of normal hours may on occasion be necessary as workloads dictate. This may include weekdays and/or weekends. As already indicated, the role will generally be performed in an office environment, but will require travel both nationally and internationally.

Hours of Attendance

Hours of attendance will be as fixed from time to time but will amount, on average, to not less than 43 hours and 15 minutes gross or 37 hours net of lunch breaks. Flexibility will be required with regard to extra attendance, which may be required from time to time. The rate of remuneration payable covers any exceptional extra attendance liability that may arise and no additional payment will be made for extra attendance (over and above 43 hours and 15 minutes gross or 37 hours net per week).

Annual Leave

The annual leave allowance for successful candidates will be 30 working days per annum.

Sick Leave:

Pay during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service, will apply on a pro-rata basis, in accordance with the provisions of the sick leave circulars as amended from time to time.

Officers, who will be paying the Class A rate of PRSI, will be required to sign a mandate authorising the Department of Social Protection to pay any benefits due under the Social Welfare Acts direct to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Payment of salary during illness will be subject to the officer making the necessary claims for social insurance benefit to the Department of Social Protection within the required time limits.

Secrecy, confidentiality and standards of behaviours:**Official Secrecy and Integrity**

During the term of the probationary contract, an officer will be subject to the Provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1963, as amended by the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. The officer will agree not to disclose to third parties any confidential information, especially information with commercial potential, either during or subsequent to the period of employment.

Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour

The officer will be subject to the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour.

Ethics in Public Office Act 1995

The Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 will apply, where appropriate, to this employment.

Prior approval of publications:

An officer will agree not to publish material related to his or her official duties without prior approval by the Secretary General of the Department.

Political activity:

During the term of employment the officer will be subject to the rules governing civil servants and politics.

Personnel Code:

Further details and circulars regarding these terms and conditions can be found on the following website www.circulars.gov.ie

Superannuation and Retirement

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the Civil Service at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, an appointee who has never worked in the Public Service will be offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Full details of the Scheme are at www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie

Where the appointee has worked in a pensionable (non-Single Scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment or is currently on a career break or special leave with/without pay different terms may apply. The pension entitlement of such appointees will be established in the context of their public service employment history.

Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

- Pensionable Age: The minimum age at which pension is payable is the same as the age of eligibility for the State Pension, currently 66.
- Retirement Age: Scheme members must retire on reaching the age of 70.
- Career average earnings are used to calculate benefits (a pension and lump sum amount accrue each year and are up-rated each year by reference to CPI).
- Post retirement pension increases are linked to CPI

Pension Abatement

- If the appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and is in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into payment during his/her re-employment that pension **will be subject to abatement** in accordance with Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. **Please note: In applying for this position you are acknowledging that you understand that the abatement provisions, where relevant, will apply. It is not envisaged that the employing Department/Office will support an application for an abatement waiver in respect of appointments to this position.**
- However, if the appointee was previously employed in the Civil or Public Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER), the Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS or the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government Circular letter LG(P) 06/2013, any of which renders a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements may, however be made for the reckoning of previous service given by the appointee for the purpose of any future superannuation award for which the appointee may be eligible.
- **Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007**
The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under Strands 1, 2 or 3 of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme will immediately cease. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).
- **III-Health-Retirement**
Please note any person who previously retired on ill health grounds under the terms of a superannuation scheme are required to declare, at the initial application phase, that they are in receipt of such a pension to the organisation administering the recruitment competition.

Applicants will be required to attend the CMO's office to assess their ability to provide regular and effective service taking account of the condition which qualified them for IHR.

Appointment post Ill-health retirement from Civil Service

If successful in their application through the competition, the applicant should be aware of the following:

1. If deemed fit to provide regular and effective service and assigned to a post, their civil service ill-health pension ceases.
2. If the applicant subsequently fails to complete probation or decides to leave their assigned post, there can be no reversion to the civil service IHR status, nor reinstatement of the civil service IHR pension, that existed prior to the application nor is there an entitlement to same.
3. The applicant will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (SPSPS) upon appointment if they have had a break in pensionable public/civil service of more than 26 weeks.

Appointment post Ill-health retirement from public service

1. Where an individual has retired from a public service body his/her ill-health pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement under that scheme.
2. If an applicant is successful, on appointment the applicant will be required to declare whether they are in receipt of a public service pension (ill-health or otherwise) and their public service pension may be subject to abatement.
3. The applicant will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (SPSPS) upon appointment if they have had a break in pensionable public/civil service of more than 26 weeks.

Please note more detailed information in relation to pension implications for those in receipt of a civil or public service ill-health pension is available [via this link](#) or upon request to PAS.

Pension Accrual

A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one pre-existing public service pension scheme (i.e. non-Single Scheme) as per the 2012 Act shall apply. This 40-year limit is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.

Additional Superannuation Contribution

This appointment is subject to the Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) in accordance with the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017. **Note;** ASC deductions are in addition to any pension contributions (main scheme and spouses' and children's contributions) required under the rules of your pension scheme.

For further information in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme please see the following website: www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie

Please note;

As an Employer of Choice the Civil Service has many flexible and family friendly working policies including some opportunities for remote working. Please note, successful candidates may request flexible working opportunities, however, this is at the discretion of the employer and decided in line with the business needs of the organisation, and on a case by case basis.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with the successful candidate.

COMPETITION PROCESS

How to Apply

Applications should be made **online** through www.publicjobs.ie All sections of the form must be fully completed.

Before applying candidates should log-on to www.publicjobs.ie and if you have not already done so you must register as a '**New User**' to create your profile (register a new account). Please do not confuse registering (creating a profile) with submitting an application. Once you have created a profile you must then access the application form, complete and submit it.

Once you have submitted your application form it is suggested that you return to your publicjobs account and ensure that it has been successfully submitted via 'My Applications'. At this point you should consider adding publicjobs.ie to your safe senders or contact list within your email account to avoid not receiving email because a publicjobs e-mail has been blocked.

Only applications fully submitted online will be accepted into the campaign. **Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.**

Closing date

Your application must be submitted on the Public jobs website not later than

3pm, Thursday 2nd December 2021.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your application within 24 hours of applying, please email: Robert.baker@publicjobs.ie

Interviews for these posts are likely to commence in December 2021/January 2022.

You are advised to check your messageboard on a regular basis as email notifications of updates/tests/Interviews etc issued to your Messageboard may sometimes be filtered into your Junk/Spam email folders. You are also advised to check all these folders regularly.

The onus is on each applicant to ensure that she/he is in receipt of all communication from the Public Appointments Service (PAS).

PAS accept no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by an applicant.

Candidates should make themselves available on the date(s) specified by the PAS and should make sure that the contact details specified on the application form are correct.

Candidates with Disabilities

Candidates who have indicated on their application or profile that they would like to avail of reasonable accommodations are asked to submit a psychologists/medical report. The purpose of the report is to provide PAS with information to act as a basis for determining reasonable accommodations, where appropriate.

These reports must be forwarded to the Assessment Services unit, Public Appointments Service, Chapter House, 26-30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1 by close of business on **2nd December 2021**. You should email a scanned copy of the report to asu@publicjobs.ie. If you have previously applied for a competition with PAS and submitted a report, please email asu@publicjobs.ie to confirm that your report is still on file.

If you would like to talk about your candidature and any accommodations that may be of benefit during the recruitment process, please contact our Disability Champion, Amanda Kavanagh, at amanda.kavanagh@publicjobs.ie. For further information on the accessibility of our service please see our [Accessibility page](#).

Selection Methods

The selection may include:

- shortlisting of candidates on the basis of the information contained in their application
- a competitive preliminary interview
- Pre-recorded video Interview
- completion of online questionnaire(s)
- presentation or other exercises
- a final competitive interview
- work sample/role play/media exercise and/or any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate

Shortlisting

The number of applications received for a position generally exceeds that required to fill existing and future vacancies for the position. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the Public Appointments Service may decide that a smaller number will be called to the next stage of the selection process. In this respect, the Public Appointments Service provide for the employment of a short listing process to select a group who, based on an examination of the application forms, appear to be the most suitable for the position. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates, who based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. An expert board will examine the application forms against agreed shortlisting criteria based on the requirements of the position. The shortlisting criteria may include both the essential and desirable criteria specified for the position. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications/ experience in your application.

References

It would be helpful if you would start considering names of people who you feel would be suitable referees that we might consult (3 names and contact details). The referees do not have to include your current employer, but should be in a position to provide a reference for you. Please be assured that we will only contact referees should you come under consideration after preliminary interview stage.

Please note, should you be successful at final interview, we will require a reference from your current employer, prior to recommendation for appointment.

Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Security Clearance

You will be required to complete and return a Garda eVetting form should you come under consideration for appointment. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for security checks on all Irish and Northern Irish addresses at which you resided. However, should your application for the competition be unsuccessful this form will be destroyed by PAS. If you subsequently come under consideration for another position, you may therefore be required to complete a further Garda Vetting Form.

If you have resided / studied in countries outside of the Republic of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, it is **mandatory** for you to furnish a **Police Clearance Certificate** from those countries stating that you have no convictions recorded against you while residing there. You will need to provide a separate **Police Clearance Certificate for each country you have resided in**. Clearance must be dated after the date you left the country.

Candidates should be aware that any information obtained in the Garda Vetting process can be made available to the employing authority.

It is YOUR responsibility to seek security clearances in a timely fashion as they can take some time. You cannot be appointed without this information being provided and being in order.

Other important information

The Public Appointments Service will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

The admission of a person to a campaign, or invitation to attend an interview, is not to be taken as implying that the Public Appointments Service are satisfied that such person fulfils the requirements of the competition or is not disqualified by law from holding the position and does not carry a guarantee that your application will receive further consideration. It is important, therefore, for you to note that the onus is on you to ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements for the competition before attending for interview.

If you do not meet these essential entry requirements but nevertheless attend for interview you will be putting yourself to unnecessary expense.

Prior to recommending any candidate for appointment to this position the Public Appointments Service will make all such enquiries that are deemed necessary to determine the suitability of that candidate. Until all stages of the recruitment process have been fully completed a final determination cannot be made nor can it be deemed or inferred that such a determination has been made.

Should the person recommended for appointment decline, or having accepted it, relinquish it or if an additional vacancy arises the Board may, at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process.

A panel may be formed from which future vacancies may be filled from this campaign.

Once a candidate has accepted an offer of appointment their name will be removed from the panel and no further offers of appointment will be made.

Should similar type vacancies arise elsewhere in the Civil Service candidates may be drawn from this competition.

Procedures where a candidate seeks a review of a Decision taken in relation to their application

A request for review may be taken by a candidate should they be dissatisfied with an action or decision taken by the Public Appointments Service (PAS). The PAS will consider requests for review in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Code of Practice *Appointments to Positions in the Civil and Public Service* published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (Commission). When making a request for a review, the candidate must support their request by outlining the facts they believe show that the action taken or decision reached was wrong. A request for review may be refused if the candidate cannot support their request.

The Commission recommends that, subject to the agreement of the candidate, where the office holder (in this instance the Chief Executive Officer of PAS) considers the matter could be resolved they should first seek to engage on an informal basis, before making use of the formal review procedure.

Procedure for Informal Review

- A request for Informal Review must be made within 5 working days of notification of the decision and should normally take place between the candidate and a representative of the PAS who had played a key role in the selection process.
- Where the decision being conveyed relates to an interim stage of a selection process, the request for informal review must be received within 2 working days of the date of receipt of the decision.
- Where a candidate remains dissatisfied following any such informal discussion, he/she may adopt the formal procedures set out below.
- If the candidate wishes the matter to be dealt with by way of a formal review, he/she must do so within 2 working days of the notification of the outcome of the informal review.

Procedure for Formal Review of Selection Process

- The candidate must address his/her concerns in relation to the process in writing to the Chief Executive, outlining the facts that they believe show an action taken or decision reached was wrong.
- A request for review must be made within 10 working days of the notification of the selection decision. Where the decision relates to an interim stage of a selection process, the request for review must be received within 4 working days.
- Any extension of these time limits will only be granted in the most exceptional of circumstances and will be at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive.

- The outcome must generally be notified to the candidate within 25 working days of receipt of the request for review.

Complaints Process

A candidate may believe there was a breach of the Commission's Code of Practice by PAS that may have compromised the integrity of the decision reached in the appointment process. The complaints process enables candidates (or potential candidates) to make a complaint under Section 8 to the Chief Executive Officer of PAS in the first instance and to the Commission for Public Service Appointments subsequently on appeal if they remain dissatisfied.

Allegations of a breach of the Code of Practice should be addressed in writing, and within a reasonable timeframe, to the Chief Executive Officer in the first instance. The complainant must outline the facts that they believe show that the process followed was wrong. The complainant must also identify the aspect of the Code they believe has been infringed and enclose any relevant documentation that may support the allegation. A complaint may be dismissed if they the complainant cannot support their allegations by setting out how the Public Appointments Service has fallen short of the principles of this Code.

On receipt of a complaint PAS may determine to engage with the complainant on an informal basis.

For further information on the above procedures please see the Code of Practice *Appointments to Positions in the Civil and Public Service* which is available on the website of the Commission for Public Service Appointments, www.cpsa.ie

There is no obligation on the PAS to suspend an appointment process while it considers a request for a review.

Please note that where a formal review of a recruitment and selection process has taken place under Section 7 of this Code of Practice, a complainant may not seek a further review of the same process under Section 8, other than in the most exceptional circumstances that will be determined by the Commission at its sole discretion

Requests for Feedback/Test Rechecks

Feedback in relation to the selection process is available on written request. Feedback and rechecks may be requested for up to six months after completion of each stage of the competition.

Please note that the Review Process as set out in the Code of Practice is a separate process with specified timeframes that must be observed. Receipt of feedback is not required to invoke a review. It is not necessary for a candidate to compile a detailed case prior to invoking the review mechanism. The timeframe set out in the CPSA Code cannot be extended for any reason including the provision of feedback and/or the outcome of rechecks.

Candidates' Obligations

Candidates must not:

- knowingly or recklessly provide false information
- canvass any person with or without inducements

- personate a candidate at any stage of the process
- interfere with or compromise the process in any way

It is important to remember that this is a competitive process for a role where integrity is paramount. Sharing information on the selection process e.g. through social media or any other means, may result in you being disqualified from the competition.

Please note that all assessment and test materials are subject to copyright and all rights are reserved. No part of the test material (including passages of information, questions or answer options), associated materials or interview(s) may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, photographing, recording, written or otherwise, at any stage. To do so is an offence and may result in you being excluded from the selection process. Any person who contravenes this provision, or who assists another person(s) in contravening this provision, is liable to prosecution and/or civil suit for loss of copyright and intellectual property.

Use of Recording Equipment

PAS does not allow the unsanctioned use of any type of recording equipment on its premises. This applies to any form of sound recording and any type of still picture or video recording, whether including sound recording or not, and covers any type of device used for these purposes.

Any person wishing to use such equipment for any of these purposes must seek written permission in advance. This policy is in place to protect the privacy of staff and customers and the integrity of our assessment material and assessment processes.

Unsanctioned use of recording equipment by any person is a breach of this policy. Any candidate involved in such a breach could be disqualified from the competition and could be subject to prosecution under section 55 of the Public Service Management (Recruitment & Appointments) Act, 2004. In addition, where a person found guilty of an offence was or is a candidate at a recruitment process, then:

- Where he/she has not been appointed to a post, he/she will be disqualified as a candidate; and
- Where he/she has been appointed subsequently to the recruitment process in question, he/she shall forfeit that appointment.

Contravention Code of Practice

Any person who contravenes the above provisions or who assists another person in contravening the above provisions is guilty of an offence. A person who is found guilty of an offence is liable to a fine/or imprisonment.

In addition, if a person found guilty of an offence was, or is a candidate at a recruitment process:

- they will be disqualified as a candidate and excluded from the process;
- has been appointed to a post following the recruitment process, they will be removed from that post.

Specific candidate criteria

Candidates must:

- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned;
- Be suitable on the grounds of character;
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned;
- and if successful, they will not be appointed to the post unless they:
 - Agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed.
 - Are fully competent and available to undertake, and fully capable of undertaking, the duties attached to the position.

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

Candidates who do not attend for interview or other test when and where required by the Public Appointments Service, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the Public Appointments Service require in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration.

Candidates are expected to provide all requested documentation to PAS, including all forms issued by PAS for completion, within five days of request. Failure to do so will result in the candidate being deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and their candidature will receive no further consideration.

Quality Customer Service

We aim to provide an excellent quality service to all our customers. If, for whatever reason, you are unhappy with any aspect of the service you receive from us, we urge you to bring this to the attention of the unit or staff member concerned. This is important as it ensures that we are aware of the problem and can take the appropriate steps to resolve it.

Feedback will be provided on written request. A request for feedback does not impact on the timeframe set out for seeking a review.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive.

When you register with publicjobs.ie or submit an application for a competition, we create a computer record in your name. Information submitted with a job application is used in processing your application. Where the services of a third party are used in processing your application, it may be required to provide them with information, however all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure the security of your data. If you are successful in the recruitment and selection competition, your application may be made available to the Human Resources section of the organisation to which you have been assigned.

To make a request to access your personal data please submit your request by email to: dpo@publicjobs.ie ensuring that you describe the records you seek in the greatest possible detail to enable us to identify the relevant record(s).

Information in relation to a candidate's personal data held by the Public Appointments Service are set out on the Data Protection page of www.publicjobs.ie.