



DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Chomhairle Chontae Dhún Laoghaire – Rath An Dúin

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BOOKLET

**EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST/EOLAÍ FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN
COMP ID 011428/COMÓRTAS 011428**

**COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE E-MAILED IN PDF FORMAT ONLY TO
CAREERS@DLRCOCO.IE**

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE 12 NOON
THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2025**

DÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Rath an Dúin

EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST/EOLAÍ FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN
(COMP. I.D. (011428)/ COMÓRTAS (011428))

QUALIFICATIONS

1. CHARACTER:

Candidates shall be of good character.

2. HEALTH:

Candidates must be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

3. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:

- a) hold an honours degree (level 8 in the National Framework of Qualifications*) in Science;
- b) have at least five years satisfactory experience of scientific work; and
- c) possess a high standard of technical training and experience

*** Non Irish Qualifications must be accompanied by a determination from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) to establish their comparability against the Irish National Framework of Qualifications, overseas qualifications must also be accompanied by a translation document.**

It is desirable that each candidate:

- Be able to demonstrate a strong ability in the following areas - Delivering Quality Outcomes & Ensuring Compliance, Communicating Effectively and Managing Resources – see competencies below.
- Possess a satisfactory knowledge of the relevant key environmental legislation, including but not limited to, Environmental Protection Agency Act (1992), Protection of the Environment Act (2003), Environmental (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (2011), Waste Management Act (as amended), Air Pollution Acts 1987 (as amended).
- Possess a satisfactory knowledge of health and safety legislation and safety regulations.
- Have experience in management and supervision of staff.
- Have an ability to manage deadlines and effectively handle multiple tasks.
- Hold a full driving licence, Category “B”, free from endorsement.

4. THE ROLE:

The Environment Section of the Council covers the areas of air and noise pollution, waste and litter management, landfill aftercare, management of recycling facilities and climate action. The person/s appointed will work under the direction and control of the Senior Executive Scientist or other officer designated by the Director of Service or the Chief Executive.

Main Responsibilities:

The duties which are assigned to the Executive Scientist include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To carry out investigations, audits and prepare reports on official complaints (as logged on to the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System or requested by other departments) received from the public in respect of air and noise complaints, illegal waste activities which may be in breach of EU and National Environmental Legislation.
- Completion of investigations, audits and reports in accordance with Air Quality, Noise and Waste Management Regulations (non-exhaustive list).
- Completion of investigations, audits and reports on Waste Facility Permits, Certificates of Registration, Waste Planning and Historic landfills.
- Investigation of pollution incidents, including if necessary, preparing files for prosecution and giving evidence in court.
- Inspection of construction and demolition sites with respect to compliance with relevant environmental legislation.
- To assist the Environmental Enforcement Team in the creation of team plans and procedures including the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan and directions from the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) Office.
- Review of Planning applications compliance submissions, pre-planning meetings, referrals and preparation of planning reports.
- Air Quality sampling and analysis and associated data management.
- Represent the Council on local / national working groups as required.
- Working with the Environmental Health Officers on air and noise matters as required.
- The enforcement of current (and future) EU and National environmental legislation and policy.
- Preparation of - Service Reviews, Departmental Returns, Access to Environmental Information (AIE) requests, Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, Public Presentations, Data Protection Requests.
- Liaise with other bodies, central government Departments, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WERLA and others as required.
- Complying with Health and Safety Requirements of Employees under the Council's Health and Safety Statement, preparing risk assessments and ensuring compliance by others with Health and Safety obligations.
- Procurement and contract management.
- Management and supervision of staff.
- Presenting in a public forum including committee meetings of the Council.
- Attendance out of hours as required for Council meetings, Area Committee meetings, Strategic Policy Committee meetings or other.
- Management of budget(s) as required.
- Deputising for the Senior Executive Scientist as required.
- Performing any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

The successful candidate will be assigned to the Environment Section of the Infrastructure and Climate Change Department.

EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

This is a competency based competition, and the interviews will be competency based. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate **sufficient evidence within their application form**. **Please take particular note of these when completing the application form as any short-listing or interview process will be based on the information provided by candidates in the application form.**

COMPETENCY	BEHAVIOURS
Delivering Quality Outcomes and Ensuring Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the achievement of quality outcomes in delivering services, with a focus on continuous improvement. Abides by the laws, regulations, policies and procedures affecting the discharge of duties; • Organises the delivery of services to meet or exceed the required standard through collaborating with, instructing and motivating stakeholders and by managing resources effectively; • Develops and implements quality assurance measures to achieve compliance with performance standards or benchmarks; • Critically evaluates outcomes and processes used to achieve them; • Is aware of and understands relevant legislation, regulations and policies; • Refers to relevant professional documents as required.
Communicating Effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises the value of and requirement to communicate effectively. Has effective verbal and written communication skills. Has good interpersonal skills; • Presents ideas effectively to individuals and groups and delivers presentations suited to the nature and needs of the audience; • Is clear in all communications, considering the audience in getting the message across. Writes fluently, clearly structuring written communication; • Prepares for communication, carrying out the necessary research and speaking to the relevant people in advance; • Is effective in communicating a complex or technical message, using language appropriate to the audience.
Managing Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages the allocation, use and evaluation of resources to ensure they are used efficiently to deliver on operational plans. Drives and promotes reduction in costs and minimisation of waste; • Allocates and manages human, financial, physical, technological and information resources in accordance with the operational objectives; • Ensures best value and efficiency in service delivery; • Intervenes in a timely manner if work activities go over budget; • Is vigilant in monitoring the work of contractors to ensure that costs are tightly controlled, and that work is delivered effectively; • Analyses and improves management and accountability structures in their operational area to ensure that they are fit for current purpose.
Personal Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of the role of Executive Scientist. • Personal motivation. • Take initiative and is open to taking on new challenges or responsibilities. • Manage time and workload effectively. • Maintain a positive and constructive and enthusiastic attitude to their role.
Knowledge and Understanding of Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Local Government; • Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the legislative and policy environment in which they are operating.

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PARTICULARS OF THE POSITION

1. The office is permanent, whole-time and pensionable.

2. **SALARY:**

Salary Scale is as follows;

**€57,909, €60,017, €62,124, €64,235, €66,345, €68,454, €70,565, €72,663, €74,784, €76,887, €79,311 1st LSI;
€80,498 2nd LSI. (1st October 2024 rate)**

Entry point to this scale will be determined in accordance with Circulars issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

In accordance with Departmental Circular letter EL 02/2011, a person who is not a serving local authority employee on or after 1st January 2011, will enter the scale for the position at the minimum point.

Rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government Policy.

The salary shall be fully inclusive and shall be as determined from time to time. Holders of the office shall pay to the Local Authority any fees or other monies (other than their inclusive salary) payable to or received by them by virtue of their office or in respect of any services, which they are required by or under any enactment to perform.

3. **SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTION:**

Persons who become pensionable officers of a Local Authority who are liable to pay the Class A rate of PRSI contribution will be required in respect of their superannuation to contribute to the Local Authority at the rate of 1.5% of their pensionable remuneration plus 3.5% of net pensionable remuneration (i.e. pensionable remuneration less twice the annual rate of social insurance old age contributory pension payable at the maximum rate to a person with no adult dependent or qualified children).

Persons who become pensionable officers of a Local Authority who are liable to pay the Class D rate of PRSI contribution will be required in respect of their superannuation to contribute to the Local Authority at the rate of 5% of their pensionable remuneration.

All persons who become pensionable officers of a Local Authority will be required in respect of the Spouses and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme to contribute to the Local Authority at the rate of 1.5% of their pensionable remuneration in accordance with the terms of the scheme.

RETIREMENT:

New Entrants recruited to the Public Service on or after 1 January 2013

Pensionable public servants (new joiners) recruited to the Public Service for the first time on or after 1 January 2013 (the commencement date of the Single Scheme) will be members of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

Pension age

Minimum pension age is linked to the State Pension age which is currently 66 but may be subject to change.

Compulsory retirement age

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

In all other cases, staff recruited on or after 1 January 2013 who were employed in the Public Service on 31 December 2012 or within a period prior to 31 December 2012 not exceeding 26 weeks will retain their existing pension scheme terms and conditions.

In certain circumstances, e.g. where the public servant was on secondment or approved leave or remains on the same contract of employment, the 26-week rule does not apply.

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)

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

4. HOURS OF WORK

All new entrants to the Local Authority sector and any individuals on new appointments or promotion will work 35 hours per week.

5. ANNUAL LEAVE

Annual leave entitlement for the position of Executive Scientist is 30 days per annum in accordance with Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Circular LG(P) 07/2011.

6. PROBATION:

When a person is not already a permanent officer of a Local Authority within the public service Ireland and is appointed to a permanent office the following provisions shall apply, that is to say.

- a. There shall be a period after such appointment takes effect during which such person shall hold office on probation;
- b. Such period shall be one year.
- c. Such person shall cease to hold such office at the end of the period of probation unless, during such period, the Chief Executive has certified that the service of such person in such office is satisfactory

7. DUTIES

The duties of the office are to give the local authority and

- a. such other local authorities or bodies, for which the Chief Executive for the purposes of the Local Government Acts 2001 and 2014, is Chief Executive, and
- b. to any other local authority or body with which an agreement has been made by the local authority or by any of the authorities or bodies mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, under the direction and supervision of the appropriate professional officer, such engineering services of an advisory, administrative, supervisory or executive nature as may be required by any Local Authority or

body hereinbefore mentioned in the exercise and performance of any of its powers, functions and duties including the duty of assisting the Director of Services or other authorised officer, as appropriate, in the supervision of the engineering and cognate services of any of the foregoing local authorities or bodies and, when required to do so, to perform the duty of acting for the appropriate professional officer of higher rank during the absence of such officer of higher rank

8. LOCATION & RESIDENCE

Holders of the office shall reside in the district in which their duties are to be performed or within a reasonable distance thereof. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right to assign Employees to any premises in use by the Council, now or in the future subject to reasonable notice

9. RECRUITMENT:

Pursuant to article 8 of the Local Government (Appointment of Officers) Regulation, 1974, the Minister has given directions as follows:

- i. Selection of candidates for appointment shall be by means of a competition based on an interview conducted by or behalf of the Local Authority. The interview will be competency based and marks will be awarded under the competency skill sets identified for the position of Executive Scientist as outlined above. Candidates will also be required to demonstrate knowledge of the key duties and responsibilities for this role. Please note that the interview may be held in person or on online.
- ii. DLRCC reserves its right to shortlist candidates, in the manner it deems most appropriate, to proceed to the interview stage of the competition. Following receipt of all applications, job applicants may be shortlisted for assessment based on the extent to which they meet the criteria from the job description and / or where it would not be practical to interview all applicants. Aptitude Testing may in some circumstances be used to facilitate the shortlisting process. If required, the testing will be performed through a 3rd party provider and submission of an application for employment is regarded as consent to share your information for the purposes of short-listing and recruitment. Your information will be provided for the sole purpose of shortlisting suitable candidates and for no other purpose. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will ensure any 3rd party fully complies with GDPR and Data Protection legislation. **It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your relevant qualifications/ experience on the application form and also to demonstrate sufficient evidence of the competencies required for this position under each competency heading which are detailed above.** Short-listing does not suggest that 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. Short-listing may take the form of Desk-top Short-listing, Aptitude Test and/or Preliminary Interview or combinations thereof.
- iii. If a candidate wishes to appeal either a short-listing or interview board decision, they must do so within **five** working days of being notified of this decision. The appeal must clearly state the grounds of appeal which must be emailed to The Appeals Officer recruitment@dlrcoco.ie, the HR Department will evaluate the grounds of the appeal. If grounds for an appeal are not upheld, HR Management will notify the candidate in writing of this outcome and no further action will be taken. If the grounds upon which the appeal is made are upheld, the HR Department will notify the candidate of this outcome and corrective action will be taken. The decision of the HR Department on the appeal is final.
- iv. Panels may be formed on the basis of such interviews. Candidates whose names are on a panel and who satisfy the Local Authority that they are otherwise suitable for appointment may within the life of the panel be appointed as appropriate vacancies arise. The life of the panel will not be more than one year reckoned from the date of the formation of the panel unless extended.
- v. The Local Authority shall require persons to whom appointments are offered to take up such appointments within a period of not more than one month and if they fail to take up the

appointments within such period or such longer period as the Local Authority in its absolute discretion may determine, the Local Authority shall not appoint them.

- vi. An applicant who withdraws his/her application at any stage of the competition will not be permitted to re-enter the competition at a later stage. Any claim in relation to the late receipt of application forms will not be entertained.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

- The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016 came into effect on 29th April 2016. The Act places a statutory obligation on DLRCC to ensure that ‘any work or activity which is carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of a person having access to or contact with children or vulnerable persons will be subject of Garda Vetting’.
- Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence.
- It is important to remember that this is a competitive process for a role where integrity is paramount. Sharing information on the selection / interview process e.g. through social media or any other means, may result in a candidate being disqualified from the competition.
- DLRCC 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.
- An applicant who is found to be ineligible at any stage of the competition will not be further considered. Provision of inaccurate, untrue or misleading information will lead to disqualification from the competition, withdrawal of employment offer or dismissal.
- A candidate who does not attend for interview when and where required by the Council, or who does not, when requested, furnish such evidence as Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council require in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will no longer be considered for selection.
- All non-EU/EEA citizens must hold a valid work permit prior to and for the duration of their contract. The work permit must allow you to work full time for Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. It is the responsibility of individual employees to ensure that you have a valid work permit. If at any stage during your contract, you cease to hold a valid work permit you must immediately advise Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, and your employment will cease with immediate effect.
- In the event of an offer of employment each candidate be required to provided evidence that they meet all the criteria as set out above and also on condition of satisfactory references.
- For the purpose of satisfying the requirement as to health, it will be necessary for each successful candidate, before they are appointed, to undergo at their expense, a medical examination by a qualified medical practitioner to be nominated by the Local Authority. On taking up employment, the expense of the medical examination will be refunded to the candidate.

Completed applications on the official form should be e-mailed to careers@dlrcoco.ie not later than 12 noon on Thursday 23rd January 2025. Applications received after the closing time and date will not be accepted.

Note Re Canvassing:

Any attempt by a candidate themselves, or by any person(s) acting at their instigation, directly or indirectly by means or written communication or otherwise, to canvas or otherwise influence in the candidate’s favour, any

member of the staff of the County Council, or person nominated by the County Council to interview or examine applicants will automatically disqualify the candidate for the position they are seeking.

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and encourages applications under all nine grounds of the Employment Equality Act.