

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Head of Noise and Nuisance Technical and Evidence Team
Salary: £47,847 to £68,990 (Dependant on experience)
Term: 3 years fixed term contract
Location: London

Summary

Part of Defra's Atmosphere and Local Environment (ALE) programme, you'll lead the noise and nuisance technical and evidence team, with responsibility for providing technical input into Government policy on noise and nuisance (including odour, dust, light etc.), delivering the noise mapping project and managing the noise and nuisance evidence base.

Background

The Atmosphere and Local Environment (ALE) programme has recently been formed within Defra. It brings together work on air quality, noise, statutory nuisance, local environmental quality, industrial emissions, fluorinated gases and stratospheric ozone protection. The noise and nuisance team develops and promotes initiatives to address environmental noise, neighbourhood noise and statutory nuisance, and manages research into noise and statutory nuisance.

Your role

Delivering reduced levels of noise and nuisance in a society which is demanding increased mobility and economic growth is a massive challenge and it's up to us at Defra to define how this will be achieved. The Government's vision for the management of noise is outlined in the Noise Policy Statement for England and the noise and nuisance team are responsible for delivering this vision through implementing cross-Government policies and initiatives. In addition, a number of non-noise nuisances, such as odour and light are becoming more high profile; and the team is leading on developing evidence-based policy on these.

Reporting to the Head of Science and Evidence for ALE, you'll provide strategic leadership into the development of the noise and nuisance research programme and provide technical support to deliver Defra, wider Government and international policies on these issues. As part of this, you'll ensure that policy development needs on noise and statutory nuisances are met in the short and long term and that evidence outputs are translated into clear policy messages.

Managing a new team of three scientists, you'll set their direction and priorities, in the context of Defra's wider strategy, targets and priorities. Value for money will be a key criteria in delivering your responsibilities and you will need to identify and maximize synergies with other evidence activities, within and external to Defra. You'll need to develop strong working relationships with key stakeholders and use your leadership and influencing skills to secure beneficial outcomes for the programme, for Defra and Government as a whole.

Your profile

To successfully tackle the broad scope of challenges this role will present, you'll need to have:

- A proven and substantial track record and strong reputation in environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise, acoustics and statutory nuisance, both nationally and internationally. This may be demonstrated through corporate membership of the Institute of Acoustics.
- High level research skills and an ability to interpret the work of others, operating effectively at the science-policy interface to translate policy needs into evidence requirements and translating evidence outcomes into policy messages.
- Be able to work with policy officials across Government to formulate clear, cogent negotiating positions and to present these positions in the face of challenge.
- A pragmatic approach to PPM tools and processes to ensure the delivery of outputs to agreed timescales.
- The ability to communicate complex technical issues in a clear and concise manner.

Further information

Further information on the policy area can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/noise/index.htm>

To apply

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