

Post: Chief Planning Inspector

Purpose of Post:

The Chief Planning Inspector will be responsible for the overall leadership and management of Planning and Environment Decisions Wales, ensuring that it is effective and fit for purpose. This includes leadership on both operational and professional matters. The successful candidate will also be expected, to contribute to the management of the Welsh Government as a whole where this is compatible with the role. In addition the post holder needs to play a figurehead role within the planning service in Wales, where the Chief Planning Inspector provides a well-respected, objective and impartial view on the effective operation of the planning system and profession - and improvements to it - to all stakeholders including Welsh Ministers. The Chief Planning Inspector will also represent Wales at UK level meetings and with the Chief Planning Inspectors and senior policy officials from other administrations.

Inspectors are built environment and environmental judges, arbitrating in disputes on land use and environmental matters. Given the range of work that is undertaken, Inspectors and the Chief Planning Inspector are required to have an extensive and detailed knowledge of the wide range of policy and legislation which is relevant to the work of Planning and Environment Decisions Wales. The Chief Planning Inspector will be responsible for ensuring complete impartiality of decision making. They will also be required to report any concerns about maintaining impartiality or any perceptions by others regarding impartiality, direct to the Permanent Secretary.

The role engages directly with local authority officers and elected members to assist them in achieving the adoption of Strategic and Local Development Plans and in training and upskilling local government members and officers to enable the examination of plans to run smoothly, as well as giving impartial advice on key components of the evidence base. The Chief Planning Inspector sets the bar for evidence standards supporting the plan and will also be expected to offer informal advice on the strategy and evidence base supporting draft plans.

The post holder is responsible for the £3m programme budget for the operation of the service, as well as for the management of fee income earned from the processing of various casework on behalf of others. This fee income offsets the running costs of the service and is typically worth some £1million annually.

The post holder needs to play an important professional leadership role and will be expected to participate regularly in academic and professional activities to develop and enhance the operation of the planning system in Wales. The Chief Planning Inspector will also need to engage with local planning authority members where concerns have been raised about local decisions being overturned on appeal.

Terms of Appointment:

This is a permanent post, it is available to:

- > Permanent UK Civil Service employees (recruited through fair and open competition) on a lateral, promotion or loan basis.
- > Non-civil service employees on a permanent basis
- > Those who wish to apply on a secondment basis for up to four years

For existing Civil Servants

If you are a substantive Deputy Director applying on a lateral transfer basis to Welsh Government you will retain your existing salary.

If you are an existing civil servant applying on promotion, the starting pay on promotion into the Senior Civil Service will usually attract a 10% increase in base pay or be at the Senior Civil Service pay band minimum, whichever is greater. However, for staff promoted from the Grade 6 maximum, the increase will be capped at 5% or be at the Senior Civil Service pay band minimum, whichever is the greater. Refer to the policy on starting pay on promotion should you want more details.

Secondment

If you are applying for this role on a secondment basis, you will retain your existing terms and conditions including salary.

Annual leave

If an existing civil servant is promoted into or within the Senior Civil Service, their annual leave allowance is based on their period of continuous employment in the Civil Service, as shown below:

Length of service

- Up to 1 year - 25 days annual leave entitlement;
- Between 1 and 2 years - 26 days annual leave entitlement;
- Between 2 and 3 years - 27 days annual leave entitlement;
- Between 3 and 4 years - 28 days annual leave entitlement;
- Between 4 and 5 years - 29 days annual leave entitlement;
- 5 years or more - 30 days annual leave entitlement.

Salary:

This role is at Deputy Director Grade the salary – circa £73,000 per annum although more may be available for an exceptional candidate.

Work Pattern:

This is a full time role, although job sharers are encouraged to apply. It is expected that if you apply as a job share partnership, this arrangement is in place when submitting your application and please make it clear on your application form that you are applying as a job share partnership.

Location: You may work from any of the four Welsh Government offices based in Wales, which are located in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Llandudno Junction and Aberystwyth. We are supportive of home working and tailoring patterns to suit individuals' circumstances. The majority of Welsh Government staff are currently working from home/working remotely and this will continue to some degree so that we can reduce our environmental impact and support people to work closer to the communities they live in.

Interviews will be held on 29th October 2021

To find out more about this role and how to apply, please visit the Welsh Government web site at:

<https://gov.wales/job-and-vacancies>

The closing date for applications is

24th September 2021

A large print, Braille or audio version of this advert can be obtained by request from 03000 255454.