



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Candidates Information Booklet

Please read carefully

Open competition for the appointment to the position of:

Catchment Agricultural Scientist (3 positions)
Waters of LIFE Integrated Project
(Fixed purpose contract ending on 31st March 2028)
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Closing Date: 5:00 PM Thursday 29th June 2023

The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will run this campaign in compliance with the Codes of Practice of the Commissioners for Public Service Appointments (CPSA)

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

Contact:

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Custom House

Dublin www.gov.ie/housing

The Waters of Life project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

Catchment Agricultural Scientists for the EU LIFE Integrated Project “Waters of Life”

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Title of Position: Catchment Agricultural Scientist

Employer: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Type: Specified Purpose Contract

Location: Various

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) is the Government Department responsible for housing and water, physical and spatial planning, local government, weather forecasting and for conserving and managing Ireland’s unique heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

The European Union’s EU LIFE programme is part of the EU’s funding for environment and climate action. Information about the LIFE programme is available at https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

Waters of Life Integrated Project:

The Waters of LIFE Integrated Project aims to help reverse the loss of Ireland’s most pristine or high status objective river waters. The ongoing loss of high status waters is among the most concerning, protracted and persistent water quality trend in Ireland. Other water quality trends have well-understood cause and effect, with detailed plans in place to mitigate impacts. More actions are necessary to protect high status objective waters.

The Waters of LIFE is a demonstration project which will develop, test and validate effective integrated catchment management measures to reverse this declining trend.

A total of six project catchments have been selected, five active demonstration catchments where measures will be trialled and evaluated and one control catchment. These are:

1. Blackwater SC 060 (Cork)
2. Lee SC 060 (Cork)
3. Island SC 020 (Galway/Roscommon)
4. Graney SC 020 (Clare)
5. Avonmore SC 010 (Wicklow)
6. Sheen SC 010 (Kerry) (Control)

The locations of these sub catchments is shown on the project website at <https://watersoflife.ie/catchments/>

Part of selecting suitable measures in the active demonstration catchments will be encouraging co-benefits for climate action and biodiversity. The project will include a 'Results Based Agri-environmental Payment Scheme' (RBAPS) for participating landowners, in catchments 1, 2 and 3. Engaging and communicating with stakeholders and the public will be an important element of the project.

The project team will operate as a separate intact team for the duration of the project. The catchment agricultural scientists will form part of the project team and report the project ecologist. The team will work in close cooperation with other River Basin Management Plan projects and implementation bodies such as the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and the Local Authorities' Blue Dot Catchment Programme. The project officially started on 1st November 2019, but was delayed due to Covid 19, and is expected to run until 31st March 2028.

Phase 1 covers the project establishment, recruitment, catchment characterisation and catchment selection. This phase will end on 30th June 2022

Phases 2&3 cover the implementation of measures, operation of a RBAPS, environmental monitoring and reporting and will run from 1st July 2022 to 31st March 2028.

The DHLGH is the lead authority for the project and there are 16 different project partners, including:

- Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Coillte
- Teagasc
- Local Authorities
- Environmental Protection Agency
- DAFM – Forest Service
- 10 LEADER Companies

Job Description:

The catchment agricultural scientist positions are full-time specified purpose contract positions from date of appointment to 31st March 2028. However, the contract may be extended if the project has not been completed by that date.

Overview:

The successful candidates will be appointed as Waters of LIFE Catchment Agricultural Scientists. One catchment agricultural scientist will be based in each of the three active demonstration catchments where the Results Based Agricultural Payments Scheme will be introduced and will lead on public engagement and stakeholder management in that catchment. These catchments are:

- The Blackwaters SC 060 (Cork)
- The Lee SC 060 (Cork)
- The Suck SC 020 (Galway/Roscommon)

Candidates will be required to identify their preferred catchment in the application form and will be expected to base themselves in or near that catchment. It is not anticipated that a significant degree of remote working will be feasible for these roles.

The 3 catchment agricultural scientists will also operate as part of a multi skilled team along with 2 catchment scientists and will work together to carry out any necessary catchment investigations across all of the demonstration catchments in order to identify pressures and appropriate mitigation measures.

The successful candidates will report to the Project Ecologist and may be required to report occasionally to a Project Steering Committee and to a Project Stakeholder Advisory Group, both to be established by the DHLGH.

Principal Duties:

The catchment agricultural scientists will be expected to:

- Establish and manage local stakeholder groups;
- Organise and carry out local stakeholder and public engagement activities including community meetings, school visits;

- Organise outreach activities aimed specifically at the agricultural community, including farm walks and discussion groups;
- Promote the benefits of protecting High Status Waterbodies;
- Carry out investigative assessments in the demonstration catchments;
- Assist in the identification of appropriate agricultural mitigation measures;
- Assist in the development of catchment strategic plans;
- Agree implementation plans with landowners;
- Oversee and monitor the implementation of measures;
- Primary point of contact between farmers, advisors and the project team in their designated catchment;
- Continual liaison with the farming community in designated catchment;
- Provide agri-environmental advice and support to participant farmers during scheme as required;
- Liaise with and provide support to farm advisors working on the Programme as required;
- Assist in the development and coordination of the RBPS programme in conjunction with the Project Team;
- Contribute to the development of RBAPS guidance documents and training material;
- Coordinate and deliver training to farmers and farm advisers;
- Plan and conduct monitoring surveys and fieldwork;
- Develop and coordinate scoring verification procedures relating to the RBAPS scoring process;
- Liaise and work closely with the wider project team;
- Prepare and contribute to reports when required;
- Carrying out any such other relevant duties as may be assigned from time to time.

Office location and working environment:

One agricultural scientist will be based in the Blackwater SC 060 (Awbeg (Kilbrin)) in Co. Cork and the other will be based in the Suck SC 020 (Islands River), on the Galway/Rocommon border, at locations to be agreed with the project manager. Candidates will be asked to identify their preferred catchment(s) in the application form. The main project office is located in Croom County Limerick and the successful candidates will be required to attend meetings at this location from time to time.

The co-ordinating section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Water Division is located in the Custom House, Dublin and the successful candidate may also be required to attend meetings there occasionally.

The catchment agricultural scientists will be required to travel to other demonstration catchments from time to time to assist in catchment assessments and developing mitigation plans.

Project requirements may necessitate occasional work outside of normal hours. For example, this may include attending stakeholder meetings outside of normal office hours.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Essential:

Candidates must, on or before the closing date for the competition, have:

- A degree (level 8 or above) in Agriculture (animal, crop/plant science), Agri-Environmental science, Agricultural Sustainability, Agri-Technology or related discipline;
- Minimum of three years relevant experience in the agri-environment sector;
- An understanding of the principles of integrated catchment management
- Good knowledge of agriculture payment schemes
- Experience in the preparation and monitoring of farm plans including an ability to identify issues at a farm level that pose a threat to water quality, and identify solutions which give due consideration to the farm operations and the achievement of multiple benefits;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Self-motivated and have a proven ability to work under their own initiative;
- A positive, enthusiastic, pragmatic, solution driven, and flexible approach to work;
- A willingness to actively participate as part of a wider multidisciplinary team;
- An ability to manage their own workload, ensuring that work is carried out on schedule and to a high standard;
- A full driver's licence and access to their own transport.
- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned;
- Be suitable on grounds of character;
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for the 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;
- Be fully competent and available to undertake, and fully capable of undertaking, the duties attached to the position.

In addition, candidates must demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in those competencies listed in the “key personal competencies for this role” section below.

Desirable:

In addition, it is desirable that candidates:

- Be accredited by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine as a Farm Advisory Service (FAS) Advisor.
- Have an understanding of catchments science and management
- Have knowledge and awareness of results-based schemes such as the Pearl Mussel Project EIP or ACRES etc
- Have experience in GLAS, AEOS, and REPS.
- Have experience of GIS and of using mobile data collection software;
- Have a strong working knowledge of relevant national and EU legislation.

Key Competencies for the Role:

In addition to the essential requirements, candidates must use relevant examples in the application form, to demonstrate how they satisfy the competencies listed below.

Competency Heading:	Competency Description:
Judgement, Analysis & Decision Making:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to gather, analyse and interpret information from relevant sources, weighing up a range of critical factors;• Makes decisions utilising resources and expertise available, taking account of any broader issues and related implications, whilst also recognising time constraints;• Resourceful and creative, generating original approaches when solving problems and making decisions;• Seeks all relevant information to help overcome existing or potential problems in the team/project• Uses previous knowledge and experience in order to guide decisions;• Makes sound decisions with a well-reasoned rationale and stands by these;• Puts forward solutions to address problems;
Management & Delivery of Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes responsibility and is accountable for the delivery of agreed objectives;• Structures and organises their work effectively and is logical and pragmatic in their approach, delivering the best possible results with the resources available;• Manages and progresses multiple projects and work activities successfully;• Works effectively with others, providing clear information and evidence as to what is required;• Proactively identifies areas for improvement and develops practical suggestions for their implementation;• Demonstrates enthusiasm for new developments/changing work practices and strives to implement these changes effectively;• Applies appropriate systems/ processes to enable quality checking of all activities and outputs;• Practices and promotes a strong focus on delivering high quality customer service, for internal and external customers.
Interpersonal & Communication Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to initiate and maintain relationships to promote and advance the aims of the project (and to harbour an awareness of the impact that external and internal issues/developments will have on the project);• Uses information effectively to influence and persuade others;• Demonstrates confidence and conviction in the information conveyed;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate effectively with others, using the appropriate medium to ensure that the message is clearly understood; • Encourages open and constructive discussions around work issues, projects conviction, gaining buy-in by outlining relevant information and selling the benefit; • Treats others with diplomacy, tact, courtesy and respect, even in challenging circumstances; • Presents information clearly, concisely and confidently when speaking and in writing.
Specialist Knowledge, Expertise and Self Development:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently strives to perform at a high level; • Is resilient and perseveres to obtain objective, despite obstacles or setbacks;; • Demonstrates high levels of initiative, taking ownership for projects and demonstrating self-sufficiency; • Demonstrates flexibility and openness to change; • Is personally honest and trustworthy; • Acts with integrity and encourages this in others.

Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility:

Citizenship Requirements

Eligible candidates must be:

- (a) A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or
- (b) A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or
- (c) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
- (d) 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
- (e) 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
- (f) 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 noneligibility)

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 reemployment 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 to a temporary position in the Civil Service and is subject to the Civil Service Regulation Acts 1956 to 2005, 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 PPC (Personal Pension Contribution) salary for this position with effect from 1st March 2023 is as follows:

57,106 – 58,680 – 60,259 – 61,831 – 63,407 – 65,682 – 67,171 – 68,665 – 70,162 (MAX)

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

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, which is funded under the European Union's LIFE programme is to a temporary, position in the Civil Service on a fixed purpose contract for a period of nine years with effect from the specified start date. The appointment carries no entitlement to permanent status, by way of limited competition or otherwise.

In accordance with the Protection of Employees (Fixed Term Work) Act 2003, the contract is on a fixed purpose, whole time contract basis only, on the following grounds. This appointment is a temporary one and is for a strictly limited single fixed purpose, ending on 31st March 2028. However, the contract may be extended if project is not completed by that date.

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 Carer's 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.

Secondment:

Where appropriate, the Department may consider a secondment arrangement with the Department's current staff.

Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977-2015:

The Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977-2015 will not apply to the termination of the employment by reason only of the expiry of the fixed-term contract without it being renewed.

Organisation of Working Time Act 1997:

The terms of the organisation of Working Time Act, 1997 will apply, where appropriate, to this employment.

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 Act 2014. The officer will agree not to disclose to unauthorised 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 to 2001:

The Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 to 2001 will apply, where appropriate, to this employment.

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 web site www.circulars.gov.ie

Outside Employment:

The position will be whole time and the appointee may not engage in private practice or be connected with any outside business, which conflicts in any way with his/her official duties, impairs performance or comprises his/her integrity.

Hours of Attendance:

Hours of attendance will be as fixed from time to time but will amount, on average, to not less than 41 hours and 15 minutes gross or 35 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 41 hours and 15 minutes gross or 35 hours net per week).

Annual Leave:

The annual leave for this position is 29 days, rising to 30 days after 5 years' service. This allowance, which is subject to the usual conditions regarding the granting of annual leave, is on the basis of a five-day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays.

Sick Leave:

Pay during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service in accordance with the provisions of the sick leave circulars for the public service.

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

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 at 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 III-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 existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 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 for Public Servants 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 policies e.g. Worksharing, Shorter Working Year, Remote Working (operated on a 'blended' basis) etc. All elective policies can be applied for in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and are subject to the business needs of the organisation.

Important Notice

The foregoing 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:

An application must be made on the Application Form which is available for download from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage website:

www.gov.ie/housing/recruitment

Candidates do not need to submit a Curriculum Vitae.

Your fully completed application form must be submitted to recruitment@housing.gov.ie by the closing date and time stated on the Application Form.

The admission of a person to a competition, or invitation to attend interview is not to be taken as implying that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is satisfied that such a person fulfils the requirements.

On receipt of an application you will be issued with an acknowledgement by email. Please note that all further correspondence will be carried out via email.

It is anticipated that the interviews for this post will be held during the summer months of 2023. Without prejudice to the outcome of the selection process you are advised to make whatever provisional arrangements necessary should you be called to attend for interview. More precise instructions in this regard will issue closer to the planned date for interviews.

Candidates must make themselves available, if invited for interview, on the date(s) specified by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and ensure that the contact details entered on their Application Form are correct.

Selection Methods:

The selection process may include some or all of the following:

- shortlisting of candidates on the basis of the information contained in their application
- initial/preliminary interview
- presentation or other exercises
- a final competitive interview
- any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate.

Shortlisting:

If the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage may decide that a number only will be called to interview. In this respect, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provide for the employment of a short listing process to select a group for interview who, based on an examination of the applications, appear to be the most suitable for the position. A shortlisting panel will examine the applications against predetermined criteria based on the requirements of the position and the Key Competencies for the role. 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. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications, experience and competencies in your application.

Confidentiality:

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 1997 and 2003 applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Security Clearance:

Garda vetting may be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment. The applicant will be required to complete and return a Garda Vetting form should they 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 the applicant resided. If unsuccessful this information will be destroyed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. If the applicant subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

Other Important Information:

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

The admission of a person to a competition, or invitation to attend an interview, is not to be taken as implying that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage may, at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process.

Candidates' Rights - Review Procedures in relation to the Selection Process:

Request for a review are dealt with in accordance with the *Code of Practice: Appointment to*

Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service published by the Commission for Public Service published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments – the Code can be accessed [here](#).

The Department will consider request (addressed to the HR Manager) for review as follows:-

- Informal process to be availed of within 5 working days of the notification of initial decision (Section 7.8 of Code) or within 2 working days of the receipt of a decision in relation to an interim stage 7.9 of Code)
- Formal process: request for review must be made within 10 working days of the notification of the initial decision or if an interim stage the request for review must be received within 4 working days (Section 7.13 of Code)
- The Candidate may seek to have outcome of initial review reviewed by decision arbitrator and a request to this affect should be made within 7 working days of the receipt of the outcome of the initial review (Section 7.15 of Code).

Section 8 of the Code deals with the Review/Appeals Procedure in relation to allegations of a breach of the Code of Practice.

Candidate Feedback:

In accordance with the principles of the above Code of Practice, the Department is committed to providing clear, specific and meaningful feedback to candidates. In this regard it is the Department's policy to provide written feedback to candidates. This will consist of the candidate marks from the competition, benchmarking the mark relative to the performance of other candidates where possible and a comment from the assessment board in relation to the candidate's overall performance under each of the competency headings.

Access to Information:

Interviewers will be advised not to write comments on application forms and HR will destroy these copies on the completion of the competition. Candidates retain the usual access rights to information on completion of the competition.

Candidates' Obligations:

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify and will result in their exclusion from the process.

Candidates must not:

- Knowingly or recklessly provide false information;
- Canvass any person with or without inducements;
- Interfere with or compromise the process in any way.

A third party must not impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process.

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, 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.

Deeming of Candidature to be Withdrawn:

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

Freedom of Information Declaration:

Applicants should note that some or all of the information contained in this application may be released subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, 1997.

If any of the information in this application is considered sensitive, please identify same and specify in writing the reasons for its sensitivity.

The Department will consult with you about sensitive information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request received.

Special Accommodations:

If you require any special accommodations in relation to any aspect of this competition, please notify the HR Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage recruitment@housing.gov.ie