



guardians of drinking water quality

Inspector (3 posts) - Drinking Water Inspectorate
£37,240 - £43,190 (SPTO grade)

Inspector (SPTO) – Drinking Water Inspectorate – Ref: 1556524

The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) is the regulator of drinking water quality in England and Wales. It operates on the behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Welsh ministers.

Drinking water inspectors are involved in a wide range of tasks all of which will involve the evaluation of large amounts of technical information about the operation of water supplies or the testing of drinking water samples or materials. In carrying out such evaluations, inspectors communicate on a frequent basis with water company staff or contractors, environmental health officers, public health professionals, other regulators, industry forums, professional bodies, government officials and members of the public.

The regulatory framework for public water supplies in England and Wales is set out in the Water Industry Act 1991 and associated regulations. When carrying out a technical assessment inspectors must decide whether or not there has been, or is likely to be, a breach of the regulations and if so, whether enforcement action is necessary to safeguard drinking water quality. In order to reach decision inspectors may need to gather evidence by an inspecting water company site or by interviewing staff, contractors or consumers. In certain circumstances inspectors may be required to attend court and give interviews to the media.

Inspectors work in teams under the direction of a Principal Inspector, however, there is a high degree of autonomy of decision making within the context of the Inspectorate's policies and procedures. Once trained, each inspector is responsible personally for managing the day to day relationship between the Inspectorate and one or more of the regulated water companies. Inspectors will also be required to give authoritative advice to resolve disputes such as consumer water quality complaints or disagreements between the parties involved with the regulation or operation of a private water supply.

You should have a good honour's degree or equivalent qualification in a subject related to water supply, such as chemistry, engineering or microbiology. This should be supported by significant postgraduate experience in the water industry; however, applicants with postgraduate experience of environmental regulation or in an environmental laboratory will be considered. You should have attained, or be working towards, chartership of your professional body.

You will have good IT skills and be well organised. As travelling is an integral part of the job, often to areas not served by public transport, you should have a valid driving licence, although it may be possible to adjust this requirement for those who have difficulty meeting it because of a disability. Media training and project management skills would be advantageous.

DWI is committed to a programme of continuous professional development.

For further information on this vacancy, please contact Nitin Patel on 020 8025 2586 or 0300 068 6400 or at: nitin.patel@defra.gsi.gov.uk

For further information about the work of the DWI, please visit www.dwi.gov.uk

You must register and apply online at the Civil Service Jobs [website](#)

Closing date: 20 October 2017

As an Equal Opportunities employer Defra welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability, age, religion, or sexual orientation. We operate a family-friendly policy including flexible working patterns.