

Head of Biosecurity

Department: Growth, Housing and Environment

Division: Natural Environment

Reports to: Director of Natural Environment

JE Reference: GHE1031

Grade: Civil Service 14

JE Date: 20/04/2020

Job purpose

Leading on the development and implementation of Government of Jersey policies and procedures with regard to plant and animal health to safeguard the natural environment and support the food and farming industry.

Job specific outcomes

Provide advisory and scientific services to farmers, growers, the dairy industry and other government departments with specialist diagnosis of plant pests and diseases, analysis of soil, water and plant tissue samples to ensure compliance with local and international regulations.

Manage Jersey's statutory control regimes for plant and animal health in the farmed and natural environment, providing a protective framework and leading the delivery of environmental awareness programmes to safeguard the natural environment.

Attend and encourage joint training and scientific collaborations at national and international levels and maintain professional networks with intergovernmental organisations to bolster expert knowledge in plant and animal health control, best practice and up-to-date methodologies and procedures.

Take responsibility for the development and implementation of policies in respect of invasive species and plant health affecting the island, advising Government on all related aspects to ensure plant protection against pests which are a threat to agriculture, forestry and the natural environment.

Leads on the implementation of research programmes involving bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases, potato cyst nematode biocontrol and alternative chemical controls to promote food safety for islanders and other people in export jurisdictions.

Lead on the development of agriculturally and commercially advantageous cropping through research and implementation programmes for improved farming technologies that sustain a thriving rural economy with minimum impacts on the natural environment.

Advise Government on the legislative frameworks and ground action with regard to plant pests required in respect of UK and EU process change, acting as Island lead professional to the European Plant Protection Organisation to ensure that Jersey maintains its legally compliant status.

Develop responsibility for the environmental elements of Rural Economy Strategy work, acting as a point source adviser to the Agricultural sector to ensure that processes applied within the local food and farming industry have a minimum impact on the environment.

Administer and enforce international agreements, externally driven legislation, local laws and policies enabling the development of codes of practice to protect Jersey's farmed and natural environment.

Lead the Eco-Active function for GHE ensuring the development and implementation of EcoActive initiatives in partnership with NGOs and other Government of Jersey Departments and providing timely and consistent advice to Government and public stakeholders to safeguard the Island natural environment and promote awareness.

Statutory responsibilities

Active engagement, participation and compliance with any other statutory responsibilities applicable to the role, as amended from time to time.

This role is politically restricted. The job holder is not permitted to undertake political activity involving standing for election to the Government or as a Parish Constable, or publicly supporting someone who is standing for election or playing a public part in any political manner.

Services (TIER 1,2 and 3 jobs only – DELETE if not applicable)

- Plant and Animal Health
- Eco-Active Awareness and Engagement

Organisational structure



Person Specification

Specific to the role

ATTRIBUTES	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<p>Qualifications <i>Please state the level of education and professional qualifications and / or specific occupational training required.</i></p>	<p>Level 7 qualification or equivalent specialist knowledge in Biological Science, Environmental Science or a related discipline.</p> <p>British Agrochemical Standards Inspection Scheme (BASIS) qualification or equivalent.</p> <p>Chartered Membership of a related professional organisation e.g. IES, RSB.</p>	
<p>Knowledge <i>This relates to the level and breadth of practical knowledge required to do the job (e.g. the understanding of a defined system, practice, method or procedure).</i></p>	<p>Expert knowledge of plant science, pesticide science and soil science.</p> <p>Detailed knowledge of local, UK and EU legislation, directives, regulations and international agreements with a comprehensive understanding of how they impact local legislation, policy frameworks and practices.</p> <p>Ongoing Continuing Professional Development to remain up-to-date with the latest methodologies and industry research and best practice.</p> <p>Knowledge of managing a budget and business planning processes.</p> <p>Knowledge of the Government of Jersey or a</p>	<p>Knowledge of local agriculture, horticulture and dairy industries.</p> <p>Knowledge of:</p> <p>The activity and processes of Government including interaction between politicians and officials.</p> <p>Management reporting as it relates to this role.</p> <p>The Growth, Housing and Environment priorities, key objectives, risks and issues relevant to the department division and the role.</p>

	comparable organisation and its strategy and functions.	
<p>Technical / Work-based Skills <i>This relates to the skills specific to the job, e.g. language fluency, vehicle license etc.</i></p>	<p>Being conversant with geographical information systems, analytical biochemistry procedures and genetic assessment technologies.</p> <p>Computer literate with ability to operate the Microsoft Office package.</p>	Driving licence (Group B)
<p>General Skills/Attributes <i>This relates to more general characteristics required to do the job effectively, e.g. effective written communication skills, ability to delegate, motivation or commitment etc.</i></p>	<p>Strong relationship building skills.</p> <p>Good planning and organising skills so as to generate medium and long-term strategic plans for the relevant areas of responsibility.</p> <p>Ability to lead, motivate and manage teams to facilitate achievement of high delivery and performance and manage poor behaviour.</p> <p>Excellent verbal and written communication skills.</p> <p>Ability to produce written materials (e.g. letters, reports, discussion papers, proposals) to a high level for presentation to a variety of audiences, including the States Employment Board and Government of Jersey Ministers.</p> <p>Ability to communicate confidently and effectively in media interviews when required. Ability to communicate effectively to</p>	

	<p>senior stakeholders, including politicians and Senior Management and deliver key messages at a suitable level.</p> <p>Ability to influence and persuade a wide range of stakeholders in and outside the department.</p>	
<p>Experience <i>This is the proven record of experience and achievement in a field, profession or specialism. This could include a minimum period of experience in a defined area of work if required by an external body (for example a period of post-qualification experience).</i></p>	<p>Post-graduate experience in the concepts and practices of rural, plant and/or animal health and environmental management.</p> <p>Considerable post-qualification experience working in a scientific environment coupled with advisory experience in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>Proven management experience, including management of senior teams, obtained by a combination of professional experience and more formal management training.</p> <p>Experience in delivery against large budgets.</p> <p>Experience setting and deploying strategy at departmental / divisional level.</p> <p>A proven track record of achieving objectives on time.</p> <p>Experience of best practice within the area/s overseen as part of the remit of the role to make recommendations for change.</p>	

	Experience working alongside senior stakeholders within the public sector or a similar context.	
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Core Accountabilities, Attributes and Behaviour Indicators

Appointees to this role will be required to adhere to and perform their duties in line with the standards identified in the Government of Jersey tier 1 to 3 core accountabilities, attributes and behaviour indicators.

Organisation chart

