

Senior Scientific Officer

Department: Infrastructure, Housing and Environment

Division: Natural Environment

Reports to: Head of Service / Scientific Manager

JE Reference: IHE1036

Grade: 11

JE Date: 9/2/2021

Job purpose

This is a highly specialized role in a small team of specialists delivering:

- **Plant Health Biosecurity Service** across Jersey to prevent the introduction and establishment of regulated organisms into the natural, farmed and urban environments. This role directly contributes to the strategic priorities of maintenance and improvement of the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of Jersey. OR
- **Biosecurity Services and Invasive Species Services** working jointly and with all stakeholders to develop, deliver and maintain an effective land, freshwater and marine Biosecurity Strategy for Jersey, ensuring that potential large-scale impacts caused by harmful plant organisms are minimized. This will be achieved via partnership working across Government and with NGOs, commercial organisations and the public, by training, advising, demonstrating and forming lasting relationship to maximise the uptake of best biosecurity practices in order to ensure protection and enhancement of Jersey's ecosystem services (air, soil, water, biodiversity, green spaces, protected areas etc). OR
- **Land, Water and Agri-Environment Services** working strategically with all stakeholders to maximise the uptake of best agricultural, environmental and sustainable practices to ensure protection and enhancement of Jersey's ecosystem services (air, soil, water, biodiversity, green spaces, protected areas etc), acting as a 'bridge' between the economic aspirations of land-based industry, and the strategic aims of the ecosystem services protection. This will be achieved via partnership working and developing of good working relationships with landowners, managers and other users. AND

Working with and supporting the Head of Biosecurity and/or Scientific Managers, as appropriate, to deliver strategy in the specialist areas of Plant Health, Biosecurity and Invasive Species, reducing the risk and impact of regulated and non-native organisms to land based industries, the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of the public of Jersey.

Job specific outcomes

Be responsible for the operational delivery of the following:

- **Plant Health Biosecurity Service**

- Be the expert and Designated Officer for operations relating to the export of plants, plant-based materials and plant-based foods, contributing to policy making and development in this area and providing an advisory service to users to ensure all relevant transboundary, marketing, labelling, licensing and biosecurity requirements are met. This in turn maintains the Island's reputation as a producer of high-quality produce, meeting UK and international standards and 'Protected Designation of Origin' (PDO) and Trademark requirements with regard to local produce such as the Jersey Royal potato.
 - Be the expert and Designated Officer for operations relating to the import of plants, plant-based materials and plant-based foods, contributing to policy making and development in this area and using the specific powers and responsibilities contained within regulations to support biosecurity measures in Jersey. Be responsible for leading the development of their respective specialism (i.e. Import or Export) autonomously, providing training to other officers, developing the function and reporting on those areas.
 - Participate in the delivery of international cooperation campaigns to conduct scientific surveys, aimed directly and specifically at protecting areas of the local industry and so the economic wellbeing of the Island. This involves delivering the joint annual Colorado Beetle Campaign with representatives from Guernsey, DEFRA (UK), EPPO (Paris) FREDON (Basse Normandie), focused on surveying the French Cotentin peninsula, thus protecting Jersey's £40m Jersey Royal Potato industry.
 - Be responsible for accurate and legally required data collection and manipulation on activities conducted in pursuance of Plant Biosecurity, including frequency and magnitude of imports, species, source and destination, interceptions made, measures taken, licensing and registration of professional and other land-based operatives the audits and authorisations necessary for exports to the UK and to offer regulated products for sale on the local market
 - Led by the Scientific Manager – Biosecurity Science and Laboratory, deliver a pesticide use, storage and training program to national and international requirements, ensuring that operators adhere to all legislative and best practice protocols; also, directly contribute to policy formation, legislative drafting and strategy execution.
 - Led by the Scientific Manager – Biosecurity Science and Laboratory, provide a pesticide Maximum Residues Limits monitoring service, in line with EU and local legislation to ensure food safety on agricultural produce.
 - Conduct inspections and monitoring related to agrichemicals, biosecurity, plant health, pesticide storage, certification, use and residues on crops.
 - Work along other Border Agencies such as Jersey's Customs and Immigration Service, developing a collaborative approach to Border and Official Controls whilst observing strict international legislation and standard operating systems.
 - Provide an advisory service on noxious/invasive weeds, issue control orders and monitor statutory control measures aimed at controlling the spread of noxious/invasive weeds to the wider environment. OR
- **Biosecurity Services and Invasive Species Services**
 - Ensure Jersey remains in-step with its legal responsibilities in Biosecurity, including the reviewing and re-drafting legislation as required.
 - Jointly, and with all stakeholders, deliver a Tree Strategy for Jersey, to measure, protect and enhance Jersey's tree population and the ecosystem services provided (air, aesthetic, biodiversity, shade).

- Deliver the Inward Biosecurity workstream:
 - Be responsible for ensuring all inward movements to Jersey are regularly considered and kept at Biosecurity best practice level.
 - Be responsible for the management of the Pet Travel Scheme, a statutory requirement for domestic animals moving transboundary.
 - Be responsible for the management of Jersey's CITES responsibilities, a statutory requirement for transboundary movement of exotic/endangered species or products derived from them. OR
- Deliver the Interior Biosecurity workstream:
 - Be responsible for coordinating all activities relating to the control and eradication of non-native invasive species in Jersey in both voluntary and statutory control or eradication programs.
 - Be responsible for public awareness, encouraging adoption of societal biosecurity responsibilities and the public's participation at volunteer (clearance/control) events aiming to ensure biosecurity becomes part of the everyday life.
 - Encourage external research collaborations, internships and exchanges. OR
- **Land, Water and Agri-Environment Services**
 - As a lead advisor, contribute strongly to policy development within their specialist area and sit on various panels and forums as a Governmental representative.
 - Be responsible for the management of the Countryside Enhancement Scheme, providing grants for environmental improvement work.
 - Identify opportunities within the Island landscape to link multiple Government strategies and plans such as, the Island Plan, LEAF and the CES to create habitat corridors to improve ecological robustness/resilience.
 - Provide professional training and on farm advice on agrichemicals, waste management and protection of ecosystem services; also, be responsible for the management of the Dairy industry slurry disposal calendar and slurry store monitoring scheme. Due to Jersey's unique situation with intensive agriculture closely linked with urbanisation, competition for and contamination of shared resources can be an issue, so particular focus must be made on agrichemical use and water protection.
 - Provide support, advice and guidance on an individual, business and sector basis through the identification, development and delivery of an advisory service, training, practical workshops and awareness campaigns.
 - Assist stakeholders in application for and completion of local and international audit schemes. These audits are designed to ensure best practice and some areas can be technical in nature. The Post holder must be able navigate these audits and provide guidance and technical assistance to applicants, helping them gain the accreditation required to operate

Be aware of and support the work of other SSOs, identifying linkages and working collaboratively whenever possible.

Contribute to the development of response plans to biosecurity risks and contingency planning as coordination and enforcement officers in statutory outbreak or eradication situations, issuing control orders and ensuring officially prescribed measures are undertaken.

Monitor, audit, provide scientific advice and ensure compliance by the agricultural and horticultural industries with relevant environmental and plant health legislation regarding the sale, storage, use, import or export and disposal of regulated commodities, pesticides and other agro-chemicals and / or related to the introduction, management and effectiveness of agri-environment schemes aimed at diffusing pollution.

Provide specialist advice to other Government Departments, Senior Officers, farmers/landowners and other agencies/businesses within several of the wide-ranging specialisms of plant health, biosecurity and invasive species.

Provide specialist technical advice on best practice in agrichemical use, plant health, biosecurity and invasive species to reduce the environmental impacts of land-based industries, whilst protecting and enhancing ecosystem services (biodiversity, green space, soil water and air quality).

Statutory responsibilities

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

Services

- Senior Scientific Officer - Plant Health
- Senior Scientific Officer - Biosecurity
- Senior Scientific Officer - Invasive Species
- Senior Scientific Officer - Agri-Environment and Catchment

Organisational structure

<p><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>horticultural industry, modern agricultural practices, biosecurity and plant health issues</p> <p>Detailed knowledge of Jersey, UK and EU plant health and agrichemical legislation and international agreements.</p> <p>Knowledge of scientific survey techniques and methodologies</p> <p>A detailed knowledge of the island's land-based industries, modern agricultural practices, biosecurity and plant health, environmental and ecosystem services issues as related to the farmed and natural environment.</p> <p>Ongoing Continuing Professional Development in the rapidly evolving areas of plant pests and plant health regulations vital to remain up-to-date with the latest methodologies and industry research and best practice</p>	<p>The activity and processes of Government</p> <p>Management reporting as it relates to this role</p> <p>The departmental priorities and key objectives, risks and issues relevant to the directorate, division and the role</p>
<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>Excellent research skills</p> <p>Proficient user of field recording and sampling equipment</p> <p>Computer literate with ability to operate the Microsoft Office package</p> <p>Confidence in utilising GIS mapping and spatial technology</p>	

	<p>Proficient in ESRI ARC GIS and MS CRM</p> <p>Ability to use data management systems</p>	
<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>Problem solving, negotiation and influencing skills</p> <p>Confident decision-maker</p> <p>Ability to develop innovative approaches to service delivery</p> <p>Strong relationship building skills</p> <p>Ability to present effectively, both verbally and in writing</p> <p>Ability to produce written materials (e.g. letters, reports, discussion papers, proposals) to a high level for presentation</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>Some experience within one of the disciplines of the post (Agriculture, Horticulture, Plant Health, Environmental Science or a relevant discipline) in a technical capacity.</p>	

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 4 core accountabilities attributes and behaviour indicators.

Organisational structure

