



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) works to make sure the UK has secure, clean, affordable energy supplies and promote international action to mitigate climate change.

Responsibilities

We are responsible for:

- energy security – making sure UK businesses and households have secure supplies of energy for light and power, heat and transport
- action on climate change – leading government efforts to mitigate climate change, both through international action and cutting UK greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 (including by sourcing at least 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020)
- renewable energy – sourcing at least 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020
- affordability – delivering secure, low-carbon energy at the least cost to consumers, taxpayers and the economy
- fairness – making sure the costs and benefits of our policies are distributed fairly so that we protect the most vulnerable and fuel poor households and address competitiveness problems faced by energy intensive industries
- supporting growth – delivering our policies in a way that maximises the benefits to the economy in terms of jobs, growth and investment, including by making the most of our existing oil and gas reserves and seizing the opportunities presented by the rise of the global green economy
- managing the UK's energy legacy safely, securely and cost effectively



Priorities

Our priorities are:

- supporting investment in the UK's energy infrastructure – including through the Energy Bill, which will set in place the framework to bring forward the £110 billion needed in our electricity infrastructure over the next decade
- supporting consumers and keeping energy bills down, including through implementation of the Green Deal
- promoting action in the EU and internationally to maintain energy security and mitigate dangerous climate change as we chart the way towards a global deal on climate change in 2015

WORK OF DECC LEGAL

DECC Legal has a complement of around 55 lawyers, headed by Serena Hardy, Legal Adviser and Director of Legal Services, and is based in the Department's HQ offices in Whitehall Place, in the heart of Whitehall. We are organised into seven flexible teams, and work closely with ministers and policy officials in the Department and across Whitehall. As part of moves towards sharing legal services under the Civil Service Reform Plan, it is anticipated that DECC's lawyers will become part of the Treasury Solicitor's Department (while remaining located at DECC's offices). DECC Legal and the Treasury Solicitor's Department are within the Government Legal Service (the GLS).

The policy and political environment is fast-moving, and DECC has a major legislative and regulatory portfolio. DECC's lawyers need to ensure that the Department receives high quality legal advice on the full range of public law issues. The work involves advising on the development of government policy, working with Parliamentary Counsel on primary legislation and drafting secondary legislation. DECC does not conduct its litigation, but instructs the Treasury Solicitor's Department on cases in which it is involved. The Department needs robust support in taking decisions, often controversial, and in defending challenges to them. It needs support in its commercial and contract work. Major matters we expect to be advising on in the next year include:

- emissions trading
- smart grids and smart meters
- the renewable heat incentive
- fuel poverty
- carbon budgets and carbon reduction
- home energy efficiency, including the Green Deal
- gas/electricity transmission reform, both nationally and internationally



- electricity market reform (including the issuing of contracts for difference to low carbon generators, and the establishment of a Capacity Market to ensure security of electricity supply)
- content of the strategy & policy statement identifying the outcomes to be achieved in implementing energy policy
- oil, gas and coal
- unconventional oil and gas
- carbon capture and storage
- facilitating new renewable and nuclear development
- nuclear security and liabilities
- radioactive waste
- non-proliferation
- emergency planning
- international climate change negotiations
- international energy treaties
- international climate finance
- managing the UK's energy legacy
- EU initiatives including on energy efficiency, renewable and low carbon energy, and on environmental protection and energy infrastructure
- the EU Third Energy Package
- national infrastructure consents
- ensuring the integrity of wholesale energy markets
- oil, gas and coal
- corporate and commercial matters.

Successful applicants will work in one or more of the areas listed above. Applications are welcome from all qualified lawyers irrespective of when they qualified. We also welcome applications from those who expect to qualify shortly.

BENEFITS & REWARDS

As well as working on some of the highest profile issues in government, DECC lawyers belong to a high performing and friendly group, with a great deal of collaborative working between teams and with the rest of the Government Legal Service. We are strongly committed to training and development and to flexible working.

Lawyers joining DECC are assigned to a Legal Team for an initial posting usually of two to three years. We encourage staff to take an active part in their own career development, and facilitate moves within the Department and the wider Government Legal Service to provide a broad range of experience. Promotion is by competition.



Department of Energy & Climate Change

We are looking for people who are willing to gain experience and skills in a number of specialist areas and to move periodically from one area to another. We will provide strong support to help you acquire the necessary expertise.

PAY

Your pay on appointment will depend upon the level for which you are assessed by the Board.

Those with less than 2 years' qualified experience will enter the Department as Legal Officer (Senior Executive Officer Grade) with an annual salary of £38,093, inclusive of a £2,326 enhancement.

You will normally spend one year as a Legal Officer if your progress is satisfactory, and then move to the next level – Grade 7 (Legal Adviser) – for which the starting salary is £50,726, inclusive of a £2,326 enhancement.

Those with more than two years' post-qualification experience can expect to join as a Grade 7 Legal Adviser.

Prospects beyond Grade 7 include being progressed to Grade 6 (salary range £60,753 - £72,023 inclusive of a £2,326 enhancement). Progression depends on performance and demonstration of the ability to work largely unsupervised.

Further Information

You can learn more about DECC at <http://www.decc.gov.uk>.