



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Provisional Assistant Economists – HEO (D)

We are seeking talented economists to fill a range of exciting and challenging roles across the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). As an economist in Defra, you will play an active role in shaping and delivering the department's priorities, working creatively and collaboratively with others to deliver excellent outcomes with strong value for money. You will combine strong economics with communication and team-working skills to ensure sound economic analysis influences decision making, making best use of available data and evidence.

This is a particularly exciting time to join Defra. We are one of the lead Departments in delivering a successful exit from the EU. Leaving the EU will fundamentally change the work we do and how we deliver it. You will have the opportunity to use your skills and knowledge to influence the development of new approaches and policies on a wide range of issues affecting millions of people in the UK.

Background to Defra

In Defra, we deal with a vast range of issues that profoundly impact on people's lives. We are responsible for England's environment, our countryside and rural economy, the food, farming and fisheries sectors and have lead responsibility for protection from a wide range of natural threats and hazards.

Our vision is to create a great place for living for people in this country.

We have developed a set of seven strategic priorities for the next five years covering our policy outcomes and corporate objectives.

There are four impact objectives which explain our ambitious long term aims, and the positive differences we will make to the UK by 2020:

- A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy;
- A world-leading food and farming industry;
- A thriving rural economy, contributing to national prosperity and wellbeing;
- A nation protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities.

Underpinning these is our delivery objective, which describes the high level of service and value for money we will strive for, and two organisational objectives, which explain how we will organise ourselves to deliver:

- Excellent delivery, to time and budget and with outstanding value for money;
- An organisation continually striving to be the best, focussed on outcomes and constantly challenging itself;
- An inclusive, professional workforce where leaders recognise the contribution of people and build capacity to deliver better business outcomes.

We offer an inclusive culture which embraces and supports our colleagues to achieve and sustain increased levels of employee wellbeing, engagement and productivity.

The roles

Defra has a large and wide-ranging remit, made even more interesting by the added requirements of EU Exit. Examples include:

- working with the food, farming and fisheries industries, which employ around 1 in 8 working people in the UK, to develop a 25-year plan to grow more and sell more British food at home and abroad. The plan will set out a clear vision for the long-term future of the British food, farming and fisheries industries in the context of EU Exit;
- developing a 25 year environment plan to deliver the Government's commitment to being the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than that in which we found it, framing our approach to protecting the environment and making better use of resources outside the EU;
- the delivery of domestic and international commitments on issues such as air quality and developing policies and approaches on chemicals and pesticides and on waste and resource management;
- developing policy and funding approaches to improve our rivers and lakes and reduce pollution, and setting the government's objectives for regulation of the water utility sector;
- protecting our country from natural hazards and threats, including flooding and animal and plant diseases, for example investing £2.5 billion over the next 6 years to improve flood protection and better protect over 300,000 homes;
- working with rural interests, local authorities and with other government departments to improve the opportunities for people and businesses in rural areas.
- improving regulation for which Defra is responsible to achieve strong

outcomes whilst minimising the burdens on business.

We are looking for economists to work across the breadth of Defra's portfolio to strengthen outcomes and deliver excellent value for money. Defra economists are typically embedded within policy teams but some will also work in central teams such as the Office of the Chief Economist.

Our office locations

You will be based in one of Defra's policy hubs - either York, Bristol or London. Defra is able to support flexible working, which means that you may be able to work from home or in a closer Defra office for some of the week; however you will need to agree these arrangements with your new manager.

Useful information

Creating a great place for living: Defra's strategy to 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defras-strategy-to-2020-creating-a-great-place-for-living>

Defra Single Departmental Plan (SDP) 2015 - 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020/single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020>

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>