



Actuaries and the Analysis Function

Members of the Civil Service's Analysis Function are passionate about what they do and how they describe their work. In this article we take a closer look at the goals of the Analysis Function and the key role that actuaries play, some experiences of GAD staff, and future expectations.

Introducing the Analysis Function

Analysis is one of 12 professional functions across the Civil Service. It was introduced in 2017 to help realise the vision of becoming 'A Brilliant Civil Service'.

Today the Analysis Function is a community of more than 15,000 professionals who work on projects that help put analysis and evidence at the heart of government decision-making. It is described as being a community "for people with a passion for problem-solving".

The Analysis Function comprises:

1. actuaries
2. data scientists
3. economists
4. engineers
5. geographers
6. operational researchers
7. scientists
8. social researchers
9. statisticians

Shared challenges and successes

Actuaries, like other professional analysts, need to communicate analytical concepts clearly to non-analysts. By working together, analysts across government can learn from each other's expertise, and receive useful insights to support their own projects.

The 4 key objectives in the Analysis Function are used to guide the work of the individual members to:

1. **build** capability across the function through a learning and development programme
2. **increase** the integration of analysis into other functions
3. **strengthen** career paths for analysis professionals
4. **promote** diversity and leadership within the profession

The role of actuaries

Despite being a small professional group, actuaries at GAD have a key role to play in supporting the vision to deliver better government outcomes through analysis. As Jonathan Athow, interim Head of the Analysis Function has said:



"Together we are greater than a sum of our parts. The Analysis Function is a collaboration between a number of analytical professions who deliver research, evidence and advice to a consistent, professional standard.

"We have a range of highly skilled and versatile people, who are instrumental to achieving our vision of 'analysis, evidence and research to help make better decisions to improve outcomes for the UK'.

"Actuaries are a key part of our community and GAD has a critical role to play in supporting us to achieve this vision and deliver on the [Analysis Function strategy](#)."



Expanding actuarial careers

One of the main aims of the Analysis Function is to strengthen career paths for analytical professionals in government. For people in GAD this means opportunities to develop a wider breadth of skills and experience, and the potential to apply their analytical expertise in a range of government roles.

Mujahid Rahman, an Analyst in GAD who carries out calculations and analysis to help actuaries provide advice and assurance to clients commented:

“I’ve been working mostly on the public sector pension scheme valuations, including data processing, calculations and sensitivities.

“This work also involved learning and understanding all facets of how an actuarial valuation is performed and learning specific details of these kinds of schemes and regulations.”

Mujahid Rahman



The work involved learning and understanding all facets of how an actuarial valuation is performed.



Mujahid Rahman, Analyst,
Government Actuary's Department



Thannima Shamoli



My work presents unique challenges ... to develop bespoke solutions that meet specific needs.



Thannima Shamoli
Junior Trainee Actuary
Government Actuary's Department

Thannima Shamoli is a Junior Trainee Actuary who undertakes complex analysis of financial data to support public sector organisations.

She said: “Working with public sector clients means that my work has a real-life impact, and this makes my work both rewarding and exciting.

“It also presents unique challenges that require creativity to develop bespoke solutions that meet their specific needs.”

Core profession for the future

Earlier this year actuaries from GAD helped launch the new **Analysis Standard** to audiences at Civil Service Live in Edinburgh and London and we continue to play our role in promoting analysis as one of the core Civil Service functions.

When launching the Analysis Function, Civil Service leaders forecast it would provide an overall focus for analytical professions. This is especially relevant now as the country prepares for Brexit and afterwards. The Function also provides greater visibility for best practice analysis, and an opportunity to shape the structure and governance of analysis across government.



Jonathan Athow added: “There is still a long way to go in this journey but by operating as a Function, we can drive progress and grow together as a high performing, vibrant and resilient community who are trusted for the analysis we do.”