**Grade V Staff Officer**

**Job Specification & Terms and Conditions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Job Title, Grade Code** | Grade V Staff Officer  *(Grade Code 0566)* |
| **Campaign Reference** | NRS14704 |
| **Closing Date** | *Friday 22nd August 2025 at 12:00 Noon* |
| **Proposed Interview Date (s)** | Candidates will normally be given at least two weeks' notice of interview. The timescale may be reduced in exceptional circumstances. |
| **Taking up Appointment** | A start date will be indicated at job offer stage. |
| **Location of Post** | There are currently two permanent whole time vacancies available in the National Environmental Health Service based in the following locations:   * Unit 4/5 Dublin Specialist Section, Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin, Dublin 15. * Cork North Lee, Floor 3, Block 1, St Finbarrs, Douglas Road, Cork   A panel will be formed as a result of this campaign for **Grade V, National Environmental Health Service for Dublin & Cork** from which current and future, permanent and specified purpose vacancies of full or part time duration may be filled. |
| **Informal Enquiries** | Ruairí Farrelly, HR Officer, National Environmental Health Service  Email [ruairi.farrelly1@hse.ie](mailto:ruairi.farrelly1@hse.ie)  Telephone +353 (01) 795 6956 |
| **Details of Service** | The primary role of the National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) is as a regulatory inspectorate responsible for a broad range of statutory functions enacted to protect and promote the health of the population i.e. Alcohol, food safety, tobacco and related products control, cosmetic product safety, sunbed regulation, fluoridation of public water supplies, drinking and bathing water quality investigation, International Health Regulations, infectious diseases investigations, pest control, planning/ environment. These functions include activities such as surveillance, complaint investigation, inspection, audit, sampling, enforcement, consultation and advice, education, research and advocacy. NEHS is also responsible for Co-ordinating Brexit food safety issues arising from import/export controls in the wider food supply chain in the Irish Ports.  While the HSE/NEHS has a statutory role in these areas it exercises many of these functions in partnership with other state agencies, some of which have specific lead roles. Consequently, most of the NEHS functions are carried out in accordance with Service Contracts, Agency Agreements or in collaboration with external agencies e.g., Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Uisce Éireann (UE) and Local Authorities.  The multi regulatory approach facilitates the enforcement of multiple areas of legislation during a single inspection in a single business premises e.g., food safety, alcohol, tobacco control, pest control and cosmetics regulations. This approach is widely acknowledged as being effective and efficient and is consistent with the Government’s objective to reduce the regulatory burden on business operators. This approach also provides flexibility to temporarily reallocate resources in response to crises such as outbreaks of infectious disease, food incidents/alerts and other emerging health risks requiring control.  The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) is managed nationally by the Assistant National Director (AND), regionally by Regional Chief Environmental Health Officers (RCEHOs) and locally by Principal Environmental Health Officers (PEHOs).  The AND Environmental Health reports to the National Director for National Services and Schemes. The NEHS is supported by a National Business Services Unit (NBSU) who provide financial, human resource and a range of support services to the NEHS and it is managed by a General Manager. |
| **Reporting Relationship** | The post holder will report to the Principal Environmental Health Officer, or other nominated manager. |
| **Key Working Relationships** | Working with staff of all grades within the National Environmental Health Office and other key internal and external stakeholders |
| **Purpose of the Post** | To provide administrative support within the National Environmental Health Service function and to supervise staff, as assigned. |
| **Principal Duties and Responsibilities** | The position of Grade V encompasses both managerial and administrative responsibilities which include the following:  **Administration**   * Ensure the efficient day-to-day administration of area of responsibility * Ensure deadlines are met and that service levels are maintained * Ensure policies and procedures are well documented, understood and adhered to * Ensure that archives and records are accurate, maintained confidentially and readily available to the appropriate authority * Ensure line management is kept informed of issues * Ensure that stakeholders are kept informed and that their views are communicated to middle management * Dealing with responses to requests for information such as Parliamentary Questionnaires, political representations and media queries. * Maximise the use technology in ensuring work is completed to a high standard   **Customer Service**   * Promote and maintain a customer focused environment by ensuring service users / customers are treated with dignity and respect * Seek feedback from service users / customers and implement change to incorporate same, in agreement with Line Manager   **Human Resources / Supervision of Staff**   * Supervise and ensure the wellbeing of staff within own remit * Manage Time returns for the local area. * Ensure an even distribution of workload amongst the team, taking into account absence due to annual leave etc. * Create and promote a positive working environment among staff members which contributes to maintaining and enhancing effective working relationships * Promote cooperation and working in harmony with other teams and disciplines * Deal with under performance in a timely and constructive manner * Identify training and development needs of staff in own area * Pursue and promote continuous professional development in order to develop management expertise and professional knowledge * Engage in the HSE performance achievement process in conjunction with your Line Manager and staff as appropriate.   **Service Delivery and Improvement**   * Ensure accurate attention to detail in own work and work of team * Actively participate in innovation and support change and improvement initiatives within the service; adapt local work practices ensuring team knows how to action changes * Monitor efficiency of service provided by team, identify and implement changes to the administration of the service where inefficiencies arise * Encourage and support staff through change processes * Input data on the National Environmental Health Information System (EHIS) * Engage in relevant training and activities related to the inputting of data on the IFMS system.   **Standards, Policies, Procedures & Legislation**   * Maintain own knowledge of relevant HSE policies, procedures, guidelines and practices to perform the role effectively and to ensure current work standards are met by own team * Maintain own knowledge of relevant regulations and legislation e.g. Financial Regulations, Health & Safety Legislation, Employment Legislation, FOI Acts, GDPR * Have a working knowledge of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc.and comply with associated HSE protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role. * Support, promote and actively participate in sustainable energy, water and waste initiatives to create a more sustainable, low carbon and efficient health service * Adequately identifies, assesses, manages and monitors risk within their area of responsibility.   **Finance**   * Support the PEHO in managing the local budget. * Review monthly expenditure reports in conjunction with PEHO. * Provide assistance with IFMS process and procedures   **The above Job Specification is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to them from time to time and to contribute to the development of the post while in office.** |
| **Eligibility Criteria**  **Qualifications and/ or experience** | **This campaign is confined to staff who are currently employed by the HSE, TUSLA, other statutory health agencies\*, or a body which provides services on behalf of the HSE under Section 38 of the Health Act 2004 as per Workplace Relations Commission agreement -161867**.  \* View the list of [other statutory health agencies](https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/9c9c03-bodies-under-the-aegis-of-the-department-of-health/?referrer=http://www.health.gov.ie/about-us/agencies-health-bodies/)  **Professional Qualifications, Experience, etc**  (a) Eligible applicants will be those who on the closing date for the competition:   1. Have satisfactory experience as a Clerical Officer in the HSE, TUSLA, other statutory health agencies, or a body which provides services on behalf of the HSE under Section 38 of the Health Act 2004.   Or   1. Have obtained a pass (Grade D) in at least five subjects from the approved list of subjects in the Department of Education Leaving Certificate Examination, including Mathematics and English or Irish1. Candidates should have obtained at least Grade C on higher level papers in three subjects in that examination.   Or   1. Have completed a relevant examination at a comparable standard in any equivalent examination in another jurisdiction   Or   1. Hold a comparable and relevant third level qualification of at least level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework maintained by Qualifications and Quality Ireland, (QQI).   *Note1:*  *Candidates must achieve a pass in Ordinary or Higher level papers. A pass in a foundation level paper is not acceptable.*  *Candidates must have achieved these grades on the Leaving Certificate Established programme or the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme.*  *The Leaving Certification Applied Programme does not fulfil the eligibility criteria.*  **And**  (b) Candidates must possess the requisite knowledge and ability, including a high standard of suitability, for the proper discharge of the office.  **Health**  Candidates for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.  **Character**  Candidates for and any person holding the office must be of good character. |
| **Post Specific Requirements** | * Experience of working in a busy office environment, managing competing priorities and deadlines. * Experience in the creation of professional documents such as letters, reports and responses to requests for information * Experience in a role which has involved working with senior management and other key internal and external stakeholders |
| **Other requirements specific to the post** | * Access to appropriate transport to fulfil the requirements of the role. * May be required to participate in an on-call rota |
| **Additional eligibility requirements:** | **Citizenship Requirements**  Eligible candidates must be:   1. EEA, Swiss, or British citizens   **OR**   1. Non-European Economic Area citizens with permission to reside and work in the State   Read Appendix 2 of the Additional Campaign Information for further information on accepted Stamps for Non-EEA citizens resident in the State, including those with refugee status.  To qualify candidates must be eligible by the closing date of the campaign. |
| **Skills, competencies and/or knowledge** | **Professional Knowledge & Experience**   * Demonstrates knowledge and experience relevant to the role as per the duties & responsibilities and post specific requirements of the role. * Maximise the use of ICT, demonstrating excellent computer skills particularly Microsoft Office, Outlook etc. * Demonstrate the ability to work in line with relevant policies and procedures * Demonstrate commitment to developing own professional knowledge and expertise * Demonstrate knowledge of HR policies and procedures, FOI, PQs and Political Representations and Financial Regulations.   **Planning and Managing Resources**   * Demonstrate the ability to effectively plan and manage own workload and that of others in an effective and methodical manner within strict deadlines, ensuring deadlines are met * The ability to manage deadlines and effectively handle multiple tasks * The ability to manage within allocated resources and a capacity to respond to changes in a plan * Maintains an awareness of value for money   **Commitment to a Quality Service**   * Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the service user and a strong commitment to providing a quality service * Embraces and promotes the change agenda; demonstrates flexibility and initiative including the ability to adapt to and implement change * Supports team through service improvement / change processes   **Evaluating Information, Problem Solving & Decision Making**   * Demonstrate numeracy skills, an ability to analyse and evaluate information and make effective decisions. Recognises when it is appropriate to refer decisions to a higher level of management * Demonstrate initiative in the resolution of issues arising / problem solving and proactively develop new proposals and recommend solutions * Makes decisions and solves problems in a timely manner before they accumulate   **Team working**   * Demonstrate the ability to work on own initiative as well as part of a team, promoting a positive team spirit * Demonstrate leadership potential, the ability to manage the performance of others and support staff development * Works as part of the team to establish a shared sense of purpose and unity   **Communications & Interpersonal Skills**   * Demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills including the ability to present (verbal & written) information in a clear and concise manner * Demonstrate the ability to influence people and events and the ability to build and maintain relationships with a variety of stakeholders * Treats others with dignity and respect |
| **Campaign Specific Selection Process**  **Ranking/Shortlisting / Interview** | A ranking and or shortlisting exercise may be carried out on the basis of information supplied in your application form. The criteria for ranking and or shortlisting are based on the requirements of the post as outlined in the eligibility criteria and skills, competencies and/or knowledge section of this job specification. Therefore it is very important that you think about your experience in light of those requirements.  Failure to include information regarding these requirements may result in you not progressing to the next stage of the selection process.  Those successful at the ranking stage of this process, where applied, will be placed on an order of merit and will be called to interview in ‘bands’ depending on the service needs of the organisation. |
| **Diversity, Equality and Inclusion** | The HSE is an equal opportunities employer.  Employees of the HSE bring a range of skills, talents, diverse thinking and experience to the organisation. The HSE believes passionately that employing a diverse workforce is central to its success – we aim to develop the workforce of the HSE so that it reflects the diversity of HSE service users and to strengthen it through accommodating and valuing different perspectives. Ultimately this will result in improved service user and employee experience.  The HSE is committed to creating a positive working environment whereby all employees inclusive of age, civil status, disability, ethnicity and race, family status, gender, membership of the Traveller community, religion and sexual orientation are respected, valued and can reach their full potential. The HSE aims to achieve this through development of an organisational culture where injustice, bias and discrimination are not tolerated.  The HSE welcomes people with diverse backgrounds and offers a range of supports and resources to staff, such as those who require a reasonable accommodation at work because of a disability or long-term health condition.  Read more about the HSE’s commitment to [Diversity, Equality and Inclusion](https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/diversity/diversity.html) |
| **Code of Practice** | The Health Service Executive will run this campaign in compliance with the Code of Practice prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA).  The CPSA is responsible for establishing the principles to be followed when making an appointment. These are set out in the CPSA Code of Practice. The Code outlines the standards to be adhered to at each stage of the selection process and sets out the review and appeal mechanisms open to candidates should they be unhappy with a selection process.  Read the [CPSA Code of Practice](https://www.cpsa.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.cpsa.ie/media/275828/b88e3648-c663-4293-9471-d2d75bd1d685.pdf). |
| The reform programme outlined for the health services may impact on this role, and as structures change the Job Specification may be reviewed.  This Job Specification is a guide to the general range of duties assigned to the post holder. It is intended to be neither definitive nor restrictive and is subject to periodic review with the employee concerned. | |

**Grade V Staff Officer**

**Terms and Conditions of Employment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tenure** | The current vacancies available are permanent and whole time.  The posts are pensionable. A panel may be created from which permanent and specified purpose vacancies of full or part time duration may be filled. The tenure of these posts will be indicated at “expression of interest” stage.  Appointment as an employee of the Health Service Executive is governed by the Health Act 2004 and the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Amendment Act 2013. |
| **Remuneration** | The salary scale for the post is: as at 01/03/2025  €51,206, €52,738, €54,300, €55,897, €57,503, **€59,375, €61,253 LSIs**  New appointees to any grade start at the minimum point of the scale. Incremental credit will be applied for recognised relevant service in Ireland and abroad (Department of Health Circular 2/2011). Incremental credit is normally granted on appointment, in respect of previous experience in the Civil Service, Local Authorities, Health Service and other Public Service Bodies and Statutory Agencies. |
| **Working Week** | The standard weekly working hours of attendance for your grade are **35** hours per week. Your normal weekly working hours are **35** hours. Contracted hours that are less than the standard weekly working hours for your grade will be paid pro rata to the full time equivalent.  You are required to work agreed roster/on-call arrangements advised by your Reporting Manager. Your contracted hours are liable to change between the hours of 8.00am and 8.00pm over seven days to meet the requirements for extended day services in accordance with the terms of collective agreements and HSE Circulars. |
| **Annual Leave** | The annual leave associated with the post will be confirmed at Contracting stage. |
| **Superannuation** | This is a pensionable position with the HSE. The successful candidate will upon appointment become a member of the appropriate pension scheme. Pension scheme membership will be notified within the contract of employment. Members of pre-existing pension schemes who transferred to the HSE on the 01st January 2005 pursuant to Section 60 of the Health Act 2004 are entitled to superannuation benefit terms under the HSE Scheme which are no less favourable to those which they were entitled to at 31st December 2004 |
| **Age** | The Public Service Superannuation (Age of Retirement) Act, 2018\* set 70 years as the compulsory retirement age for public servants.  ***\* Public Servants not affected by this legislation:***  Public servants joining the public service or re-joining the public service with a 26 week break in service, between 1 April 2004 and 31 December 2012 (new entrants) have no compulsory retirement age.  Public servants, joining the public service or re-joining the public service after a 26 week break, after 1 January 2013 are members of the Single Pension Scheme and have a compulsory retirement age of 70. |
| **Probation** | Every appointment of a person who is not already a permanent officer of the Health Service Executive or of a Local Authority shall be subject to a probationary period of 12 months as stipulated in the Department of Health Circular No.10/71. |
| **Protection of Children Guidance and Legislation** | The welfare and protection of children is the responsibility of all HSE staff. You must be aware of and understand your specific responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015, the Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 in accordance with Section 2, Children First National Guidance and other relevant child safeguarding legislation and policies.  Some staff have additional responsibilities such as Line Managers, Designated Officers and Mandated Persons. You should check if you are a Designated Officer and / or a Mandated Person and be familiar with the related roles and legal responsibilities.  Visit [HSE Children First](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/childrenfirst/resources/) for further information, guidance and resources. |
| **Infection Control** | Have a working knowledge of Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc. and comply with associated HSE protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role. |
| **Health & Safety** | It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that the management of safety, health and welfare is successfully integrated into all activities undertaken within their area of responsibility, so far as is reasonably practicable. Line managers are named and roles and responsibilities detailed in the relevant Site Specific Safety Statement (SSSS).  Key responsibilities include:   * Developing a SSSS for the department/service[[1]](#footnote-2), as applicable, based on the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks, and reviewing/updating same on a regular basis (at least annually) and in the event of any significant change in the work activity or place of work. * Ensuring that Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is integrated into day-to-day business, providing Systems Of Work (SOW) that are planned, organised, performed, maintained, and revised as appropriate, and ensuring that all safety related records are maintained and available for inspection. * Consulting and communicating with staff and safety representatives on OSH matters. * Ensuring a training needs assessment (TNA) is undertaken for employees, facilitating their attendance at statutory OSH training, and ensuring records are maintained for each employee. * Ensuring that all incidents occurring within the relevant department/service are appropriately managed and investigated in accordance with HSE procedures[[2]](#footnote-3). * Seeking advice from health and safety professionals through the National Health and Safety Function Helpdesk as appropriate. * Reviewing the health and safety performance of the ward/department/service and staff through, respectively, local audit and performance achievement meetings for example.   **Note**: Detailed roles and responsibilities of Line Managers are outlined in local SSSS. |

1. A template SSSS and guidelines are available on [writing your site or service safety statement](https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/health-and-safety/safety-statement/).

   2 Structures and processes for effective [incident management](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/qps-incident-management/incident-management/) and review of incidents. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)