

# MY CAREER PATH

## ALAN



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Government of Ireland

# Alan joined Revenue as a Clerical Officer and applied for the role of Dog Handler in Customs. He has since been promoted to Executive Officer in another role.

"I could be deployed anywhere, working with a drug/cash dog assisting in searches in Dublin Port/Airport, Rosslare Euro Port, Cork Port/Airport involving passengers and vehicles as well as assisting An Garda Síochána in multi-agency operations."



When I left school, I worked in various jobs until I paid for a course to become a qualified forklift driver. I was then a general operative in a warehouse for 11 years until I was made redundant in 2012.



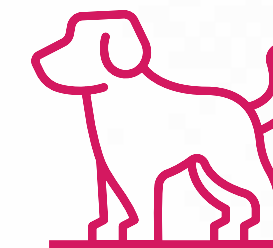
During a period of unemployment I completed a HETAC Certificate course in IT, Sales & Digital Marketing which helped me secure a job as an administrator in a drainage supplies company.



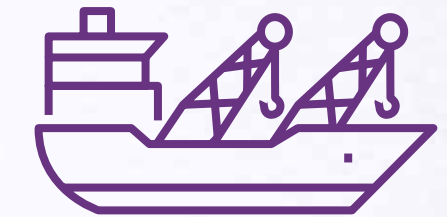
In 2016 I went to Riverfest in Dublin and I met two of the Revenue dog handlers. I was intrigued by their role, but they explained that you could only apply for it if you were already working in Revenue.



Later that year a competition was advertised on Public Jobs for Clerical Officer vacancies within the civil service. I applied and was assigned to the Revenue Commissioners in 2017. Initially I worked in Corporate Services Division (CSD) in the Recruitment unit.



While I enjoyed my time in CSD, the opportunity to become a Dog Handler was one I could not pass up and in 2018 I was successful in an internal Dog Handler competition. I travelled to Wales for 6 weeks to undertake intensive Dog Handler training.



The role itself was hugely rewarding. I could be deployed anywhere, depending on operational requirements, working with a drug/cash dog assisting in searches in Dublin Port/Airport, Rosslare Euro Port, Cork Port/Airport involving passengers and vehicles as well as assisting An Garda Síochána in multi-agency operations and premises searches.



I learned so much as a Dog Handler and have recently been promoted to Executive Officer working as part of the Detection Technology/ National Dog Program Unit. Working as a Dog Handler helped me enhance my important team leadership, communication and delivery of results skills.



I would highly recommend a career in the civil service to any teenager, and have done to my own son who's 17. There's ample opportunity to progress your career whether it's through lateral moves or via promotional competitions. There are also opportunities to upskill, particularly in Revenue, where they offer diploma and degree courses in Taxation or provide a Refund of Fees scheme for people taking part in other courses to enhance the skills relevant to their role.



Although it may not seem like it now, school days really are the best days of your life so stay in school, do your Leaving Cert and take the time to think about what you would like to do. College is not for everyone and the civil service can offer a rewarding career if you are willing to push yourself and want to progress. You don't have to take the long way around like I did!



# Job Specification – Executive Officer



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<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Office of the Revenue Commissioner <a href="#">Learn more here</a>
<b>SALARY</b>	Starting at €30,278 per annum *subject to change
<b>ROLE DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Executive Officers are engaged in critical analysis of proposals and reports and in examining the more complex, non-routine cases on which decisions are required. Executive Officers are involved in a wide range of roles and activities, including: researching and drafting proposals relating to policy issues and legislation; acting as junior managers in Government Departments; responsibilities for managing operations and, after some experience, large numbers of people and other resources; dealing directly with the public in support of services provided to them by the Civil Service. Executive Officers are employed in all Government Departments/Offices covering a wide range of functional responsibilities. The Executive Officer grade is the entry level to junior management in the Civil Service.</p>
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have obtained a minimum Level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications; <b>OR</b></li><li>• have obtained in the Established Leaving Certificate Examination a minimum of Grade D (or post 2017 Leaving Certificate O6 grade) at Ordinary level in Mathematics and Irish or English, having obtained a minimum of Grade C (or post 2017 Leaving Certificate H4 grade) in at least five subjects at Higher level; or hold a qualification, that in the opinion of the Public Appointments Service, is of a standard in terms of both level and volume of learning that is of at least an equivalent or higher standard; <b>OR</b></li><li>• have completed and passed all examinations in Year 1 of a three or four-year programme leading to a minimum Level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications; <b>OR</b></li><li>• be serving as a Civil Servant with at least two years' service;</li><li>• Eligibility to compete is open to citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA).</li></ul>
<b>APPLICATION PROCESS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Register up for job alerts on publicjobs.ie to know when opportunities become available.</li><li>2. Apply online at Publicjobs.ie before closing date</li><li>3. Online Assessment Questionnaire</li><li>4. Interview</li></ol>