

MY CAREER PATH DENISE



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Denise is Head of Flood Risk Management Systems Management Section at the Office of Public Works.

"I would highly recommend a career in the public sector to anyone interested in a diverse career with lots of opportunity for development, working to improve the world we live in. I've been fortunate enough in my various roles to have been exposed to work that directly benefits communities and our environment."



As a child I was always interested in making things, and understanding how they worked. One of the most exciting classes I can remember in primary school involved building a sand filter to clean water using a plastic bottle, pebbles and sand. Years later, I recreated this at a larger scale to build a model wastewater treatment plant for my final year project in university.



My subjects of choice for Leaving Cert included Technical Drawing (now called Design & Communication Graphics), Physics and Biology. I really liked Technical Drawing and felt at the time that two science subjects would have given me more options when choosing a third-level course to study. My advice to my teenage self would be to study what I enjoyed rather than focussing too much on what I thought would be required.



I studied Environmental Engineering in the National University of Ireland Galway, and graduated at the age of 24 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Level 8). As part of my third year in university, I completed a five-month work placement with the Office of Public Works. At the time, I was struggling with my studies and was questioning if engineering was the right course for me.



The five months gave me exposure to the professional working world delivering a public service on the ground. I saw how the theory I was learning was applied in reality on the ground. I returned for my final year of studies with a new enthusiasm for a career in engineering, and perhaps public service.



I was lucky to graduate just as OPW was recruiting. Within six months of graduating, I found myself back in OPW's Environment Section. Through my earlier years in OPW working in our Environment and Drainage Sections, I developed an interest in systems and developing methodologies for people to do their work consistently to a high standard and in a safe manner.



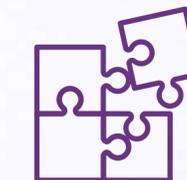
In recent years, I completed a Level 9 Post Graduate Diploma in Managing Risk & System Change in Trinity College Dublin. This enables me to carry out my current role to assess and manage risks using up-to-date methodologies, and to develop systems that people are happy to use in their work.



My role involves running a section that manages the Quality and Health and Safety Systems that enable over 400 staff working in Drainage and Construction carry out their work to a high standard and most importantly in a safe way. My role also involves working with other groups in OPW to bring consistency to how we carry out our diverse range of work, including Corporate Services, Estate Portfolio Management and Heritage Services.



Over the years, I have worked in OPW's Environment Section, Drainage Maintenance Section, Data Management Section, and am now the Head of our Flood Risk Management Systems Management Section.



OPW is an Accredited Engineers Ireland Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Employer. As well as managing OPW's Engineering CPD Programme, I am constantly updating my own skills through the programme. Over the years, I have had the opportunity through OPW, to develop my skills in the areas of engineering, finance, project management, risk management and people management.



Job Specification – Engineer Grade 1



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DEPARTMENT	Office Public Works, Flood Risk Management Learn more here
SALARY	€73,392-€91,594 per annum *subject to change
ROLE DESCRIPTION	<p>The Office of Public Works is the lead agency for co-ordinating flood risk management policy and the flood relief capital programme in Ireland. They have a variety of roles available for anyone looking to take part in providing this crucial service across Ireland. An Engineer Grade 1, is an extremely important and rewarding role that's involved in leading and motivating teams of people, provision of advice, engaging with stakeholders, delivering programmes and the management and delivery of services to Irish citizens.</p>
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 8 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications in Civil Engineering (minimum honours bachelor's degree course in Civil Engineering) that is accredited by Engineers Ireland or an equivalent qualification which would be acceptable to the Public Appointments Service.• Engineer Grade 1 must have a minimum of five years' relevant post qualification (primary degree) experience, in areas such as Civil Engineering Construction, management of the delivery of Civil Engineering solutions, Budgeting and Project Management.• Have achieved the registered professional title of Chartered Engineer and be registered on the Register of Chartered Engineers of Engineers Ireland or of a professional institute of another country and recognised by Engineers Ireland as of equivalent status.
APPLICATION PROCESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Register up for job alerts on publicjobs.ie to know when opportunities become available2. Apply online at Publicjobs.ie before closing date;3. Online Assessment Questionnaire;4. Interview.

