



## **Guide for Applicants**

### **Solicitor/Legal Advisor**

**Closing Date:** 2pm on Monday 29 January 2018

**Interview Date:** Week Commencing 5 February 2018

## Contents

Prior to completing the application form we recommend that applicants familiarise themselves with the contents of this guide which includes:

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## 1. A Message from Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for taking time to read this Guide for Applicants. I hope it gives you all the information you need to decide whether to apply for the position of **Legal Advisor** within Northern Ireland's Utility Regulator. This is a permanent post which would be an excellent opportunity for a solicitor or barrister who has experience in company/commercial law and/or public/administrative law and/or regulatory law.

It is an exciting time to work for us. We are uniquely placed as the UK's only cross-utility regulator. Our extensive remit requires us to be expert and objective and we work closely with government and stakeholders to protect consumers with regard to both price and quality of service. Consumer recognition of our work and our value is growing. We have a strong track-record of innovation in the interests of consumers, working smart with limited resources. We deliver solutions that suit Northern Ireland's needs and are in some cases at the leading edge of regulatory practice in Europe. As our corporate vision puts it, we make a difference for customers by listening, innovating and leading.

We also continue to develop our organisation with the goal of being a best practice regulator. During 2014 we published our Corporate Strategy 2014-2019 which set out the outcomes we would like to achieve over the five years. To help us deliver this strategy we have taken steps to enhance how we are structured. This has resulted in us being organised into three groupings: Corporate, Networks and Markets and this role will sit within the Legal function of the Corporate Affairs group.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the competition to fill this post. We are keen to receive experienced applications from a wide range of backgrounds.

I look forward to your application.

Yours sincerely

**Jenny Pyper**  
**Chief Executive**

## 2. About Us, Northern Ireland's Utility Regulator

We were first established in 1992, following privatisation of the Northern Ireland electricity industry, and our role extended in 1996 to cover gas. From April 2007 we also became the economic and customer service regulator for NI's water and sewerage industries.

We are a non-Ministerial government department. Our board currently consists of a chairman (Dr Bill Emery) and five other members (Mr Bill Cargo, Ms Teresa Perchard, Mr Richard Rodgers and Mr Jonathan Carlton and Mr Alex Wiseman), plus the Chief Executive, Mrs Jenny Pyper. The office currently employs around 80 people.

The Chief Executive heads our Senior Management Team (SMT). The SMT also currently includes the Directors for Retail Markets, Wholesale Markets, Compliance and Network Operations, Finance and Network Assets and Corporate Affairs. It meets weekly to review matters of common interest, and provides the collegiate leadership of the office.

Our Corporate Strategy and annual Forward Work Programme together with further information about our work, may be viewed at [www.uregni.gov.uk](http://www.uregni.gov.uk)

### **Our mission:**

To protect the short and long term interests of consumers of electricity, gas and water.

### **Our vision:**

To ensure value and sustainability in energy and water.

### **Our values:**

- Be a best practice regulator: transparent, consistent, proportionate, accountable and targeted.
- Be professional: listening, explaining and acting with integrity.
- Be a collaborative, co-operative and learning team.
- Be motivated and empowered to make a difference.

### **Water**

Our main aim is to regulate the water and sewerage industry in Northern Ireland in a way that encourages and incentivises Northern Ireland Water to achieve the highest possible service for customers in terms of both quality and value.

More information can be found at [www.uregni.gov.uk/water](http://www.uregni.gov.uk/water)

### **Gas**

Natural gas first arrived in Northern Ireland in 1996 and has since brought considerable environmental, economic and social benefits to Northern Ireland. It is the least polluting fossil fuel and its availability in an area provides greater fuel choice for industry. Natural gas also provides domestic customers with the opportunity to convert from inefficient central heating systems to highly efficient gas condensing boilers and in due course to domestic combined heating power.

We are responsible for regulating Northern Ireland's gas industry. Our main duties are to promote the development and maintenance of an economic, efficient and co-ordinated gas industry. We also aim to protect the interests of gas consumers with regard to price and quality of service.

More information can be found at [www.uregni.gov.uk/gas](http://www.uregni.gov.uk/gas)

## Electricity

Our principal objective is to protect the interests of consumers of electricity supplied by authorised suppliers, wherever appropriate by promoting effective competition between persons engaged in, or in commercial activities connected with, the generation, transmission or supply of electricity.

More information can be found at [www.uregni.gov.uk/electricity](http://www.uregni.gov.uk/electricity)

## Retail and Customer Protection

The Retail and Customer Protection directorate was created in 2009 to remove barriers and drive forward work on encouraging gas and electricity suppliers to enter the domestic energy market in Northern Ireland, in order to provide consumers with a choice of supplier.

Competition has long been at the heart of the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK) and Northern Ireland vision of energy markets. A range of steps at all three levels have sought to promote wholesale and retail energy market competition.

The statutory remit given to us places a high value on competition as a means to deliver consumer benefits in the energy retail sector in Northern Ireland. The Directorate also undertakes the role of social protection for consumers.

We also have a vital role to play in promoting sustainability as we are the main gate keepers to infrastructure investment in three sectors with high environmental impact – electricity, gas and water.

More information can be found at [www.uregni.gov.uk/retail](http://www.uregni.gov.uk/retail)

## Networks and Markets

We have recently completed an internal restructuring to realise the potential synergies and efficiencies by taking a cross utility approach to our regulation. This has resulted in a Cross Utility (gas, electricity, water and sewerage) Networks approach and a separate markets approach to regulation. Regulation of markets further divides into the Wholesale Electricity Market regulation of the Single Electricity Market for the island of Ireland and retail regulation in Northern Ireland.

## Corporate Affairs

Corporate Affairs includes the Corporate Services team which is led by the Head of Corporate Services. The team serves the organisation by carrying out a number of key functions including HR, Finance, ICT, Information Management, Facilities and Procurement. Corporate Affairs also includes three other teams covering a range of functions including legal services, sustainability, communications and strategy and.

## Other Work Streams

We hold concurrent competition law powers and are Northern Ireland's competition authority for the industries it regulates.

Being uniquely placed as the UK's only cross-utility regulator creates challenges and opportunities which we are keen to address over the coming years.

We have quasi-judicial powers to determine certain complaints, disputes and appeals.

### 3. Role Description

**Role:** Legal Advisor  
**Group:** Corporate Affairs  
**Reporting to:** Legal Services Manager

**Terms and Conditions:**

**Contract:** Permanent, full time  
**Hours:** 37 hours per week (UR operates a flexi-time system)  
**Salary:** £37,378 - £46,723 per annum  
**Pension:** Northern Ireland Civil Service pension arrangements  
**Holidays:** 25 days rising to 30 days plus 12 public and privilege days

**Role Purpose:**

You will be involved in assisting the Utility Regulator in the discharge of its functions relating to economic and customer service regulation for Northern Ireland's electricity, gas, water and sewerage industries. This will involve the provision of advice and assistance in fields of public law, competition law, company law, energy law, water law, environmental law and dispute resolution. The post will involve occasional travel within the UK and EU Member States.

The role itself will also involve some stimulating policy work in areas with a quasi-legal content: sustainability and environmental issues, financial penalties and enforcement, competition issues, freedom of information and data protection issues, complaints, disputes and appeals processes. The role will also carry more routine legal administration responsibilities to be carried out by the successful candidate on behalf of the Legal Department. For example you will also be involved in managing and working with the UR's external legal panel.

**Key Contacts:**

**Internal:** Legal consultants, Directors, Heads of Branch, managers, other Utility Regulator staff.

**External:** External industry legal representatives, comparable regulatory bodies, Northern Ireland Civil Service departments, external agencies.

Key Areas	Key Tasks
Strategic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide input to the forward work planning and activities of the Legal Services Department.</li><li>• Assist the Head of Legal in reviewing Legal Department strategy.</li><li>• Assist the Head of Legal in providing expert legal advice as required on areas of strategic importance to the Utility Regulator.</li></ul>
Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assist in providing timely and effective legal advice on all aspects of regulatory law, competition law, public and administrative law, energy law and licensing regimes.</li><li>• Drafting licence modifications, legal letters, legislative interpretation advices and providing verbal briefings as and when required on a wide range of areas of law.</li><li>• Taking instruction from the Head of Legal as to the co-ordination of external legal advice with the Legal Framework Panel of Advisors.</li><li>• Development of organisational expertise in concurrency and competition law fields including advising the Utility Regulator on its effective performance of its National Competition Authority role (which will involve occasional travel to London and Brussels).</li><li>• To support the Legal Department identify, report and suggest solutions to legal risks.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist the Legal Department with any litigation cases brought before the NI and/or ROI courts.</li> <li>Assisting with Utility Regulator's enforcement role and advising on its powers and duties.</li> <li>To provide legal support on specific projects such as the I-SEM.</li> <li>Provide advice to those dealing with Regulatory Appeals, Complaints &amp; Disputes.</li> <li>Assist in the co-ordination and response to Freedom of Information requests and other policy matters.</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist the Utility Regular to develop the standing and reputation of the Legal Department as a centre of excellence both within the Utility Regulator and with stakeholders.</li> <li>Assist in the training and development of Utility Regulator staff as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in the adherence to the expenditure of the Legal Department budget and the Legal Framework Panel budget as appropriate.</li> <li>As required contribute to the evaluation and cost appraisals (including Value for Money) for legal resources, training schemes, and related items.</li> </ul>
<b>Quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist the Legal Department in ensuring a consistent approach from a legal perspective in relation to internal policies and procedures.</li> <li>Assist the Legal Department to develop the standing and reputation of a centre of excellence with respect to Northern Ireland Utility law (both within the Utility Regulator and with service providers, external agencies etc.).</li> <li>Maintain a good understanding of the principles and practices within the organisation and the utilities industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate responsibility for your own health and safety and that of those with whom you work.</li> <li>Contribute to an environment where Health and Safety is promoted and responsibility taken for resolving any issues within the Legal Department e.g. In relation to stress management.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input to the Corporate Affairs Directorate Risk Register as required.</li> <li>Contribute to identification of legal risks, &amp; strategic risks for Corporate Affairs Directorate and the wider organisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Customer Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to external queries and consultations as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Equality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contribute to the promotion of equality of opportunity within UR and in the performance of your duties.</li> <li>To contribute to the directorate's equality screening duties where appropriate and in line with Section 75 Duties.</li> </ul>
<b>Networking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop effective working relationship with the Senior Management Team and key members of the regulated companies to ensure effective regulation.</li> <li>Provide a direct point of contact between the Utility Regulator and external specialist support.</li> <li>Build relationships with Ofgem/Ofwat and other key stakeholders in relation to e.g. strategy and policy development etc.</li> <li>Develop relationships with key stakeholders, comparable regulatory bodies, regulated companies and external agencies.</li> <li>Act as an ambassador for the Utility Regulator at seminars, training and conferences.</li> </ul>

*This job description is neither exhaustive nor exclusive and may be reviewed and amended in the future to include any other reasonable duties, projects or tasks as may be requested by management from time to time and to reflect changing organisational requirements etc.*



## 4. Selection Criteria

### Essential Criteria

Applicants must meet the following essential criteria and key skills by the closing date for applications.

1. A solicitor or barrister, qualified to practice in Northern Ireland or England and Wales with proven post qualification experience;
2. Proven experience gained working in either company/commercial law and/or public/administrative law; and/or regulatory law;
3. Proven ability to analyse complex legal issues and provide clear and concise advice and solutions that resolve business problems;
4. Proven ability to manage significant workloads with limited resources and deliver outputs in line with client/customer expectations and deadlines; and
5. Proven ability to build and maintain productive communication networks with colleagues and stakeholder organisations.

**Note:** Republic of Ireland or other common law jurisdictions may be considered. An overseas qualification is only acceptable if it is fully comparable and equivalent to the UK counterpart. You will be required to present original certificates/documentation if you are invited to the next stage of the selection process.

### Desirable Criteria

In the event of a large number of applicants the following desirable criteria will be used as further short listing criteria:

1. Knowledge or experience of Energy law;
2. Knowledge or experience of EU law;
3. Knowledge or experience of company/commercial law; and
4. Knowledge or experience of public/administrative law.

### Key Skills

In addition to satisfying the above essential criteria, **applicants will also be expected to display the following qualities and skills, these will be tested in the interview:**

- Excellent legal drafting skills and attention to detail;
- Good knowledge of technical law and the ability to assimilate complex technical information;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Strong organisational and planning skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and committed to delivering on deadlines;
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and external stakeholder organisations;
- Excellent legal drafting skills and attention to detail; and
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and external stakeholder as part of a wider team.



## 5. The Recruitment and Selection Process

### How to Apply

Completed application forms must be received by **2.00pm on Monday 29 January 2018**.

**If you submit your application form by email, you must also post a paper copy with your actual handwritten signature along with your completed equal opportunities monitoring form. Paper copies may arrive a couple of days after the closing date so long as the electronic version has been received by then.** The onus is on the candidate to ensure their application is received before the closing date and we will use the time it is received according to UR computer systems, not the time sent from a candidate's email account.

Applications and queries can be emailed to [recruitment@uregni.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@uregni.gov.uk)

Hard/Paper copies must be posted or hand delivered to **Human Resources, The Utility Regulator, Queens House, 14 Queen Street, Belfast BT1 6ED**.

Applications will be acknowledged by email within seven days from close of competition. **If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact the Utility Regulator on 028 9031 1575.**

The Utility Regulator may use reserve lists to fill similar, suitable posts within 12 months of the competition.

Candidates with a disability who require assistance will be facilitated upon request. Candidates who wish to receive the information pack in accessible formats are requested to advise of their requirements as promptly as possible allowing for the fact that the closing date for receipt remains the same for all applicants as noted above.

### Monitoring Form

The Utility Regulator monitors applications for employment in terms of community background, sex, disability and race. You should note that this information is regarded as part of your application and failure fully to complete and return this part of your application will result in disqualification.

The use and confidentiality of community background information is protected by the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. It will be used only for monitoring, investigations or proceedings under the requirements of the above legislation.

The Utility Regulator is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified applicants irrespective of age, sexual orientation, marital status/civil partnership, dependants, religious belief, political opinion, gender reassignment, race, sex or disability.

### Applications

In order to help you make this application and ensure that each applicant is provided with the same opportunity, the following advice is offered:

- Do not use acronyms, complex technical detail etc. Write for the reader who will probably not know your employer or your job. Include concise examples and be sure you can expand on these at interview.
- Listing the titles of the various jobs which you have held will not show how you meet the criteria. The panel will not make assumptions about skills and experience gained from these or the nature/name of the organisation.

- Write down clearly your personal involvement in any experience you quote. Write “I” statements e.g. I planned meetings, I managed a budget, I prepared a presentation. It is how you actually carried out the piece of work that the panel will be interested in.
- Identify relevant examples – This is very important as the examples which you provide may be checked out at interview and you may need to be prepared to talk about these in detail if you are invited to interview. It is your unique role the panel are interested in, not that of your team.

An application form is designed to ensure that applicants provide the necessary information to determine how they meet the eligibility/short listing criteria required for this post. The panel may decide to interview only those applicants who appear, from the information they have provided on their application, to be most suitable in terms of relevant experience and ability.

Please note to ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants:

- On the application form you have been advised of the maximum space available for each question, this is the same for all applicants and must not be altered (except to delete spaces created when you type in your answer).
- CVs, letters, additional pages or any other supplementary material in place of, or in addition to completed application forms will not be accepted.
- Applicants must complete the application form in either font size 10 to 12, or legible hand writing using black ink. The same limitations on space apply.
- Information in support of your application will not be accepted after the closing date for receipt of applications. Incomplete application forms will not be considered. Application forms received after the closing deadline or reformatted application forms will not be accepted. Applicants using Royal Mail should note that 1st class mail does not guarantee next day delivery. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that sufficient postage has been paid to return the form to the Utility Regulator. Any application where there is any shortfall in postage will not be accepted.
- Applicants who send their application form electronically are also required to meet the closing deadline for receipt in this office. Please note that the time of receipt will be defined by the Utility Regulator server, not the time and date sent. You must also follow-up by sending a paper copy by post along with your equal opportunities monitoring form and these must arrive within a week of the closing date. Your electronic copy will be used for shortlisting, not the paper copy.
- Only the details provided by you on your application form (the employment history and eligibility criteria) will be provided to the selection panel for the purpose of determining eligibility and shortlisting for the post.

### Eligibility Sift

After the closing date, the first stage in the selection process will be to conduct a sift of completed application forms against the essential eligibility criteria. You must demonstrate on the relevant page of the application form how you meet the criteria stated. If you do not fully demonstrate how you meet each of the eligibility criteria you will not be progressed to the next stage of the process. **You will be notified of the outcome (successful/unsuccessful) by email.**

### Shortlist

If further short listing is required, the next stage would be to conduct a sift against the desirable criteria. In the event of a large volume of applicants, scored shortlisting against the eligibility criteria may also be used to form a final shortlist.

### Interview

Following shortlisting, it is intended that the selection process will involve an interview against the key skills for the role. Panels may test any aspect of either the essential or desirable criteria, or both. Additional stages to the selection process may be required, including assessments. **It is intended**

**that the interview process will take place in Belfast in the week commencing 5 January 2018. You will be notified of the outcome (successful/unsuccessful) by email.**

The Utility Regulator's statutory remit and organisational structure is continuing to evolve. It is therefore quite possible that the scope of the advertised role may evolve significantly with consequential changes to the job description.

#### **Disability requirements at interview**

We will ask on the application form if you require any reasonable adjustments (special requirements), due to disability, to enable you to attend interview. Details of any disability are only used for this purpose and do not form any part of the selection process.

If you have indicated on your application that you have a disability and are successful in the selection process and are being considered for appointment, you may be required to outline any adjustments you consider necessary in order for you to take up an appointment. If you wish to discuss your disability requirements further, please email [recruitment@uregni.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@uregni.gov.uk)

#### **Further Information**

Further information about the work of UR can be gained by visiting <http://www.uregni.gov.uk>

Should you have any further queries about the recruitment and selection process then call the Utility Regulator on 028 9031 1575.

## 6. Terms of Appointment

The following headline terms will subsequently be included (amongst other terms and conditions) in a written contract of employment between you and the Utility Regulator.

### Salary and Contract

**This is a full-time permanent post. Subject to business need a reserve list may be created from which further vacancies may be filled, this may also include a fixed term role, with an option for UR to offer an extension or conversion to permanent should the business need exist at the end of the period.**

**The starting base salary will be in the range of £37,378 - £46,723 per annum p.a.** The successful applicant will normally be offered the first point on the salary scale. You will be paid monthly in arrears via Bankers Automated Clearing Service (BACS).

### Pension

Staff employed by the Utility Regulator are civil servants and as such are automatically enrolled into the **Northern Ireland Civil Service pension arrangements (Employer's contribution currently 22.8%)**. Information about pensions can be found at

### Place of Work

The postholder will be an employee of the Utility Regulator and will be based at Queens House, Queen Street, Belfast.

### Hours of Work

This is a full-time appointment. The offices of the Utility Regulator are accessible 24 hours a day and 7 days a week and are open for business between the hours of 7am and 7pm Monday – Friday. **Staff may avail of “flexi-time” with flexible start and finish times outside the core hours of 10am to 4pm.** Due to the nature of your position you may be required to work such additional hours over and above your standard hours (37 hours excluding meal breaks) as may be necessary for the proper fulfilment of your duties for which no additional payment will be made.

### Holiday Entitlement

Holiday entitlement will be pro-rated based on **25 days per annum (increasing to 30 days after 2 years' continuous service) and 12 public and privilege holidays.**

*Within your current role, if you have already attained annual leave of 30 days by dint of service with the NI or GB Civil Service, your holiday entitlement will be 30 days from your commencement date (pro-rated).*

### Probationary Period

There will be a probationary period of 6 months and continued employment will be dependent on the outcome of this probationary review. During the probationary period your performance will be regularly monitored and the Utility Regulator reserves the right to extend your probationary period for such further period or periods as it considers reasonably necessary to assess your performance further.

### Additional Information

Successful candidates must obtain a basic disclosure certificate from AccessNI prior to commencement of employment and may be required to attend a medical examination. Full details will be provided with your offer of employment.

As an employee of the Utility Regulator you will be subject to various office policies, for example, rules on shareholdings, conflicts of interest, and future appointments.

The Utility Regulator is an equal Opportunities Employer.