



Day in the life of an Environmental Health

Housing Apprentice

We hope you find the information provided below useful and it enables you to make an informed choice about applying for the role. We have included information we feel will be useful for you and that will provide you with a really good overview of the work you will be involved in.

Please be advised current post holders contributed to the content of this information, so it is a real-life and transparent overview of the post.

We hope that the below information helps you to prepare for any potential invite to an interview as you will be able to demonstrate how your skills, experience and knowledge match the requirements of the post you are applying for.

Practical information

Office location, parking, bus travel, nearby train stations, local shopping facilities (where can I get my lunch?).

You will be mainly based at our office at 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6AG which is a 3-minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads station and there are several bus stations right outside the office. Our office is only a short walk from a range of shops and cafes along Victoria Street if you ever need to go buy some lunch.

Additionally, although you will be based at our office in Temple Street while working for Private Housing, you may be required to go to our office at College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR while you work alongside other Environmental Health teams. If you plan to take public transport there are several bus stops on



College Green, and there are a range of buses which travel from Bristol Temple Meads station and will drop you at College Green. These buses run approximately every 15 mins from Temple Meads. There is a café in this office for coffees and to buy lunch and many shops and cafes in the surrounding area. There isn't free parking available for either office, however if you drive to work you may be interested in the Bristol Park & Ride.

Working conditions

Rotas, hours, flexible working opportunities (can I work from home or is this an office/site-based opportunity), office environment, induction, IT equipment, PPE, will I have a buddy/mentor when I start?

Working for Bristol City Council allows flexible and hybrid working. This means you will have the opportunity to work flexible hours, and you will be able to work in the office for important contact time with other officers and work from home when appropriate. You will also get the opportunity to regularly go out with officers on visits and do practical hands-on work as well as working in a corporate setting.

Who I'll be working with

- Is the role front-line/customer facing?
- Who will you be supporting in this role?
- What other teams/service areas do you work with?

Working for the Private Housing team involves going out into people's rented homes, improving living conditions and ensure landlords are complying with their legal duties. Therefore, you will be dealing with members of the public regularly, so it is essential you are able to navigate difficult conversations or conflict with landlords or tenants. As an apprentice you will have constant



support from colleagues, your mentor, and other apprentices, whether this is out on inspections or other workflows.

As part of your degree course, you are required to have experience in all disciplines of environmental health and therefore will be working within different services such as the food team, neighbourhood enforcement team, health and safety team, and pollution team. This is an amazing opportunity Bristol City Council offers to allow you to become a more holistic Environmental Health Officer, opening more doors for you.

Job satisfaction

- What is the best thing about the job?
- What does a typical day look like?
- Who or what has had the biggest impact on your development in this role?
- How has this job positively impacted your life outside of work?
- What challenges do you face and how are you supported to overcome them?
- How else are you supported in your role?

Undeniably, one of the best aspects of being a degree apprentice environmental health practitioner is it allows you to study and gain a degree qualification all financed through the apprenticeship scheme, while gaining work experience every day which is a massive advantage over going down the traditional route of being a fulltime university student.

A typical day for you would involve shadowing officers on inspections, and getting involved with a wide range projects and helping with workflows such as updating officers' cases and getting in touch with landlords/tenants or dealing with low level cases independently. You will also attend weekly team meetings where the team are updated on relevant matters and more complex cases are discussed. In this role you will find no two days are the same as you'll be



dealing such a variety of work, however this is what I believe keeps this job so interesting and exciting.

As an apprentice environmental health officer myself, I can say the biggest impact on your development in this role is having constant contact with your mentor and colleagues to ensure you are receiving as much support as you need, this is especially important when/if you are working from home.

From my experience, this job has had a massive impact my life in so many positive ways. Firstly, it's allowed me gain valuable work experience and network with a range of stakeholders while studying a subject I'm very interested in. I've also been able earn and save money as I work, which I know is helping to set me up for the future.

You will be expected to be independent and self-reliant enough to keep a balance between your studies and your work which could come as a challenge to some as you may have assignment due dates approaching while maintaining a workflow of cases, for example. Therefore, it is important you plan according, planning your weeks and prioritisation will help keep you motivated and persistent in this role.

You will find a big support in your role are the university lectures which will teach you the guidance, legislation, and procedures which you will be implementing at work.

Opportunities

- Who will support you through performance appraisals, and how often do they take place?
- What learning/development opportunities are available, and are you encouraged to attend?
- What type of progression opportunities are available in this role?
- Are there any relevant apprenticeships that could support my personal career development?



You will be supported by your mentor and team leader the performance appraisals. For new starters there is a probation review at 2, 4 and 6 months. After this staff have performance reviews at 6 and 12 months, this helps track progress and acknowledge your successes and personal achievements.

There are lots of learning and training opportunities offered by Bristol City Council which will enrich your development. These could be found on our learning hub which provides all our e learning, it could be training provided by your mentor or other members of staff, there are opportunities to join webinars and training through a third person provider such as the CIEH.

One thing that appealed to me becoming an apprentice environmental health officer is the wealth of opportunity to move and progress. There is the opportunity to move between teams in Private Housing such as the enforcement team, or the licensing team but also to other areas of Environmental Health such as the food team if you wish. There could be opportunity for you to progress to managerial roles too once you have acquired your degree and experience.