

Temporary Maternity Cover: Head of Social Security and Public Funding (C2), Scottish Fiscal Commission

Type of Recruitment:

Inward Secondment mirroring Scottish Government Terms and Conditions

Length of Posting: July 2022 – June 2023 (12 months)

Overview

The Scottish Fiscal Commission is a small friendly organisation of 27 staff and four Commissioners. We produce the independent economic and fiscal forecasts that the Scottish Government uses to set its budget and we explain their implications for public funding in Scotland.

We have an exciting opportunity for a 12 months' maternity leave cover. You would gain experience in a high-profile senior leadership role in an independent organisation, communication with a range of audiences and analytical expertise.

You will lead a team of 11 analysts who produce our social security forecasts and assess the Scottish Government's plans for funding and borrowing. These are published in two reports each year that accompany the Scottish Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). You can see our report from last year's Budget [here](#), and our report from the recent MTFS [here](#).

The team are also developing a fiscal sustainability report for Scotland that we expect to publish in May 2023. We will publish a scoping paper outlining the Commission's approach and plans for the report in August and this will set the scene for the work you will lead. The broad plan for the work can be found [here](#).

Working as part of the senior management team along with another head analyst, our head of corporate services and the Chief Executive, you will be involved in decision-making for a small public sector organisation.

You will work closely with our four Commissioners, drawing on their expertise and involving your team in discussions with Commissioners. You will also manage a wide range of relationships with stakeholders.

There will be opportunity for an extended handover, as the current post-holder will be covering another post before they go on maternity leave and we plan for a month's handover at the end of the posting once they return.

This post is graded as a Scottish Government C2 (equivalent to UK Government Grade 6). People currently at Scottish Government C1 (UK Government Grade 7) or equivalent experience can apply on temporary promotion.

Duties:

- oversee our forecasts of social security spending in Scotland for the December 2022 Budget and May 2023 MTFS (timing subject to SG decisions)

- oversee our assessment of the Scottish Government’s funding plans for the December 2022 Budget and May 2023 MTFS (timing subject to SG decisions)
- oversee our work on the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Scottish Budget, including preparing the first fiscal sustainability report expected to be published in May 2023
- contribute to and oversee the Commission’s reports on these areas of work
- support our Commissioners on these areas of work
- explain these at public events, Parliamentary Committees and/or media conferences
- lead, support and develop a team of 11 analysts, with two C1 direct reports
- as one of our senior management team, contribute to our business planning, workforce planning and risk management
- maintain strong, positive relationships with stakeholders including Scottish Government officials, Scottish Parliament clerks, SPICe, Social Security Scotland, the Office for Budgetary Responsibility, Northern Ireland Fiscal Council, Audit Scotland and HM Treasury, as well as other organisations commenting on Scottish public finances such as the Fraser of Allander Institute and the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Location

This post is based in Governor’s House in central Edinburgh (EH1 3DE), approximately 5 minutes walk from Waverly station. We currently offer a voluntary mix of home and office working. Most people in this team are in the office once a week.

The post is a full-time role, but we welcome applications from staff with different working patterns and would consider adjusting duties if the top candidate does not work full time.

Person Specifications

Essential Criteria

1. Excellent interpersonal skills and experience of leading teams and developing relationships with stakeholders.
2. Experience of leading and delivering analytical projects or programmes of work and being responsible for the quality of their output.
3. Excellent communication skills with an ability to articulate complex ideas and technical information clearly to non-technical audiences
4. Strong analytical experience, applying analytical techniques (ideally forecasting or projections) to solve real world problems.

Qualifications Required

You should have a first or upper second class degree or postgraduate qualification in a numerate subject, for example: statistics, economics, actuarial science. Other qualifications or experience equivalent to these may also be acceptable; if you are in any doubt please contact John Ireland.

Pay

The C2 pay range is from £65,275 to £75,341. New entrants are usually appointed at the bottom of the scale. A pay settlement for 2022-23 is pending.

Further Information

Further information about this opportunity is available from John Ireland, Chief Executive of the Scottish Fiscal Commission: john.ireland@fiscalcommission.scot

Expressions of interest:

To apply please email your expression of interest John Ireland by 22 June.

This should run to no more than 500 words and outline:

- why you are interested in the position; and
- the skills and experience you will bring to the role, with reference to the essential criteria.

You must also confirm that that you have discussed the opportunity with your line manager and they would authorise your early release if your application is successful.

Interviews

Interviews will take the form of an informal discussion and will be scheduled for **Monday 27 June, Tuesday 28 June or Wednesday 29 June.**

Selection Process

The selection process will be short and light touch. Candidates who are considered to have the skills and experience will be invited to an interview with the recruiting manager and another panel member. They will recommend the candidate considered most suitable for the opportunity.