



Role profile

Economic Advisor: Transport Cost Benefit Analysis Lead

Civil Service Grade: Grade 7	Salary Minimum: London - £54,105 Birmingham/Leeds - £48,774	Contract Type: Permanent
Job Type(s): Economist Analytical <small>Select 3rd job type.</small>	Civil Service Profession: Economic	DfT Directorate: Analysis & Science
Location(s): London Birmingham Leeds	Reporting to Job Title: Head of Modelling and Appraisal Methods	

Job description

We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) candidates and candidates from other protected characteristics

Job summary

An economist vacancy has arisen in Transport Appraisal & Strategic Modelling (TASM) Division in the Department for Transport. TASM is a 30-strong analytical team that is Department's centre of excellence for transport appraisal and modelling, providing analytical advice across the Department to embedded analytical and policy teams to support the delivery of a multi-billion pound investment programme at the core of the Government's economic strategy.

The post is within the Modelling and Appraisal Methods team, a multi-disciplinary unit of 11 economists and transport modellers responsible for maintaining and developing cutting edge methods for analysing the impact of transport schemes and programmes. The economists in the team are at the forefront of transport appraisal economics, holding responsibility for maintaining and researching updates for the Department's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) and, in their central role, advising analytical and policy teams across the Department on cost benefit analysis across the portfolio, often on schemes of national scale and importance.

The role is also strongly outward-facing. Industry stakeholders and academics are highly respectful of the team for offering excellent advice on undertaking scheme appraisal, often pushing the boundaries of appraisal economics in fascinating areas that affect the fundamental application of appraisal and investment decision-making. The role therefore offers considerable potential to build respect in industry and develop your professional network, working with many stakeholder groups to tackle nationally-significant, challenging and ultimately highly rewarding economic appraisal issues.

This is an excellent opportunity for a motivated and ambitious economist to develop their technical and influencing skills in a Department committed to using cutting edge analysis to drive policy decisions. The successful candidate will manage large scale research programmes, have responsibility for the work of an assistant economist, and will have the opportunity to develop good project management and governance arrangements to ensure research and development deliver value for money.

Duties and responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the role are to maintain a robust evidence base for appraisal across all modes of transport and researching appraisal methods to ensure the Department's TAG guidance is robust for all types of investment. With an unprecedented level of investment in transport being a key policy priority, with major decisions on HS2, Crossrail 2 and the Northern Transport Strategy, economic analysis will be central to these decisions and it is vital that the Department can draw on a robust evidence base on which to base these (and other) decisions.

The post holder will be responsible for:

- taking a lead role in developing and taking forward the Department's Appraisal and Modelling Strategy, working closely with embedded analytical and policy teams to anticipate future analytical requirements, specify & deliver enhancements to the evidence base and influence policy development.
 - being the Department's lead on appraisal accounting in cost-benefit analysis, understanding how issues such as discounting, rule of half and appraisal period may affect different modes and investments in different ways, so that the best appraisal advice can be given to decision-makers.
 - maintaining and developing the Department's evidence on how travellers value improvements in transport (e.g. quicker and more reliable journeys), the distributional impacts of investment on social welfare, and exploring emerging sources of evidence to support the analysis of transport investments, including how transport impacts on economic growth.
 - Developing and maintaining the team's suite of appraisal software tools, including the TAG data book and TUBA (Transport User Benefit Analysis).
 - supporting the development of proposals for a range of high profile transformational schemes (e.g. HS2, Crossrail 2, Northern Transport Strategy) by providing expert advice and critical challenge, and working to ensure the development of the evidence base is relevant and robust and coordinated across the Department.
 - collaborating with colleagues in HMT, DECC, DEFRA and the Department of Health to ensure a consistent basis for decisions across Government.
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Person specification

Behaviours

Working together

- Actively build and maintain a network of colleagues and contacts to achieve progress on shared objectives.
- Create an inclusive working environment where all opinions and challenges are taken into account and bullying, harassment and intimidation are unacceptable.

Seeing the big picture

- Ensure plans and activities in your area reflect wider strategic priorities and communicate effectively with senior leaders to influence future strategies
- Bring together views, perspectives and diverse needs of stakeholders to gain a broader understanding of the issues surrounding policies and activities.

Making effective decisions

- Clarify your own understanding and stakeholder needs and expectations, before making decisions.
- Ensure decision making happens at the right level, not allowing unnecessary bureaucracy to hinder delivery.

Delivery at pace

- Give honest, motivating and enthusiastic messages about priorities, objectives and expectations to get the best out of people.
- Maintain own levels of performance in challenging circumstances and encourage others to do the same.

[More information about Behaviours](#)

Strengths

You will be assessed against Civil Service Strengths at interview. For further details, please see the [Civil Service Strengths Dictionary](#).

[More information about Strengths](#)

Technical

Professional competencies in line with the Government Economic Service competency framework, specifically:

Application of knowledge

- Provide expert advice with regards to appraisal, impact assessments, and evidence based business cases, and evaluation.

- Oversee the development of the evidence base. This includes anticipating evidence needs, scoping work programmes, management of internal and external analytical projects and building links with academia.
- Supervise the application of and critically assess techniques such as monetisation and discounting as outlined by the Green Book, in order to apply Cost Benefit Analysis. Where appropriate demonstrate the ability to develop and improve techniques used.

Effective communication

- Build effective working relationships with policy colleagues and other analytical professions, to facilitate continuous discourse and build mutual understanding of how to work together.
- Communicate effectively with non-economists, conveying the relevance and impact of economic concepts without the use of specialist terminology.
- Be able to tailor the details of communications, ensuring that it is appropriate to the needs to the audience.

[More information about Technical](#)

Qualifications

Candidates will be expected to meet the professional qualifications of the Government Economics Service:

- a 2.1 honours bachelors degree (or international equivalent) with at least 50 per cent of economics in the two final years (or equivalent);
- or a Post Graduate Diploma (or equivalent) or a Masters degree in economics, including a substantial amount of taught macro and microeconomics.

Other helpful information you need to know

Level of security clearance: Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS)	Working Pattern: Full-time; Part-time; Job share; Flexible working	Contact Information: Robin Cambery robin.cambery@dft.gov.uk 07977 436631
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Recent examples of the team’s achievements have been developing and engaging on an appraisal and modelling strategy and responding to the appraisal challenge of reductions in national long-term prosperity as forecast by the Office of Budget Responsibility. The work of the team involved engaging at the most senior levels, across other government departments, including HM Treasury, consulting with academics and industry stakeholders. The team formulated appropriate action and provided the Department and Permanent Secretary with assurance around the robustness of our appraisal framework and hence the credibility of appraisal across the portfolio and for some of the most ambitious transport investments in the UK.

Further information on our recent achievements can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/appraisal-and-modelling-strategy-a-route-map-for-updating-tag>

A link to the Transport Analysis Guidance is here, with the role primarily focused on TAG units in the A1 family (Cost Benefit Analysis) and the A5 family (uni-modal appraisal):

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-analysis-guidance-tag#guidance-for-the-appraisal-practitioner>