

## **NISRA JOB PROFILES**

**Name:** Adele McCauley

**Primary degree:** BSc (Hons) Economics

**Year obtained:** 2012

**Previous post-university employment:** Management Consultant

**Year of joining NISRA:** 2013

**Current grade:** Assistant Statistician

**Current branch:** Statistics and Research Branch - Equality and Strategy Directorate

**Current department:** Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)

### **What are you responsible for?**

I am responsible for providing statistical and research support for two OFMDFM policy areas – Childcare and Children & Young People, my activities in relation to these policy areas are varied and include the following:

- Managing a number of research projects within the OFMDFM Research Programme 2012-2015. This entails me having to liaise with the researchers undertaking the work, arrange and attend steering group meetings, review the reports and provide comments to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide evidence for policy development, ensure the reports are published on the OFMDFM website and manage payments to the researchers. In managing the research I am in contact with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders who sit on the steering group and have to carefully manage their frequently competing priorities;
- Updating the Children and Young People's Strategic Indicators annually. The purpose of the indicators is to measure the success of the Ten Year Children and Young People's Strategy 2006-2016 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge';
- Providing statistical support to policy development such as supporting evaluations and consultations of policy through using Survey Monkey to gather responses. The provision of statistical support also involves me undertaking ad-hoc pieces of work for the policy teams; a recent example of this was when the Childcare Team were directing funding towards the expansion of childcare provision on the schools estate in the form of additional Breakfast and After School Club places through Bright Start - The NI Executive's Programme for Affordable and Integrated Childcare.

I was asked to carry out research in order to be in a position to provide an overview of the current level of this form of provision on the schools estate in Northern Ireland and gather evidence of, amongst other things, how the facilities operated in conjunction with the school whose grounds they were based on. This research involved me creating an online survey which was sent to all of the current providers and also visiting a number of the facilities to gather more qualitative information about their experiences of operating in the sector. When this initial consultation process was completed I analysed the responses from both the online survey and site visits and created a presentation of the findings which was well received. I was then asked by the Childcare Team to present these findings at 6 events across NI which aimed to promote the funding being made available to expand provision on the schools estate. In total, more than 300 people attended the promotional events which I presented at and my presentation was also made available online for others to access the findings; and

- Overseeing the contract for the maintenance of the Children and Young People's Research Database. One of the actions in the Ten Year Children and Young People's Strategy 2006-2016

'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge' was to develop mechanisms to co-ordinate research and to develop a website to enhance dissemination of research. Therefore, the need for a central repository for research conducted in NI on children and young people was identified and OFMDFM funded the development and maintenance of the Children and Young People's Research Database and Website which was officially launched on 13 December 2005. The most recent contract for the maintenance of this database came to an end in September 2013 and I was responsible for liaising with the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to ensure a new tender was issued for the maintenance of this database. The process involved me drafting specification for the new contract, responding to queries and reviewing the bids received as part of the Tender Evaluation Panel.

- Attending events such as Seminars, Conferences, Workshops and Forums relevant to my work areas.

**What is a typical day's work like for you?**

My activities change on a daily basis; I don't have a set routine each day or week as I am constantly working on different things. On any given day I could be working on one or several of the things outlined above, or I could even be working on something completely different if a new requirement presents itself. I am thankful that I have a group of very supportive colleagues to rely on if I need help with something.

**Which aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?**

I really enjoy the variety that my job brings and the opportunities that it gives me but I think the most satisfying aspect of my job is knowing that the work I do contributes to the development of policy.

**What do you see as your accomplishments since joining NISRA?**

Since joining NISRA I have gained an understanding of how the public sector operates and have adapted myself to the procedures as they are different to those in the private sector environment that I was used to. I have developed my knowledge of statistics through the work that I am undertaking and also through training courses that I have attended. I am now more confident about presenting to large audiences as a result of having to present my survey findings at 6 promotional events across NI which more than 300 people attended and I am more confident at managing relationships with researchers and internal and external stakeholder through overseeing the research projects.

**How would you like to see your career progressing?**

At present I would like to remain in my current role and gain more experience through the work that I am currently undertaking. In the future I would like to move to other departments in order develop my skills in other areas and learn more about other elements of what a NISRA statistician's role can entail. I also aim to pursue promotion opportunities as they arise.

**Would you recommend NISRA as a good place to work? Please provide a reason for the response given.**

I would definitely recommend NISRA as being a good place to work; there are so many roles and opportunities within the organisation, each one offering different experience and you have the flexibility of being able to transfer between departments so as to develop your skills and knowledge throughout your career. In addition, it is an organisation which works around your needs and is a secure job.