



Northern Ireland
Assembly



Clerical Officer (Finance Office)

Multiple posts

£26,691 - £28,375

Candidate Information Booklet

Completed Application Forms must be submitted no later
than 12 noon (UK time) on 17 May 2024.

Please retain a copy of this booklet for your reference
throughout the selection process.

Foreword

Thank you for your interest in the position of Clerical Officer (Finance Office) in the Northern Ireland Assembly (the Assembly).

The Assembly operates in a dynamic political and legislative environment, and as a newly appointed Clerical Officer (Finance Office) you will be provided with an excellent opportunity to make an important and valued contribution to Assembly business at Parliament Buildings.

Working at the Assembly offers a rewarding career. This is an exciting opportunity to join a high-profile organisation with a dedicated and inclusive team.

In turn, we offer a competitive salary. We offer excellent pension provision where you contribute between 4 and 9% of salary and the Assembly Commission will contribute a further 34.25%.

We offer an annual leave allocation of 25 days, increasing by one day per year up to a maximum of 30 days. In addition, we offer 12 days of public and privilege holidays. We also offer a range of other [employee benefits listed on the Recruitment website](#).

Please read the information provided in the candidate information booklet carefully and if you are interested in this exciting post, I would encourage you to submit your application.

Steven Baxter

Director of Corporate Services

About Us

The Assembly is at the heart of political and public life as the democratically elected parliament that represents the interests of Northern Ireland and its people.

Established as a key element of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, the Assembly comprises 90 Members and has three main functions - making legislation, scrutinising the Executive and representing constituents.

In accordance with the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the staff, services and facilities which are needed to support the work of the Assembly are provided by the Assembly Commission, a corporate body comprising the Speaker and five Members of the Assembly. The day-to-day running of the Assembly is delegated to the Clerk/Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team.

The Assembly Commission therefore provides the infrastructure (including Parliament Buildings), facilities and staff to allow the Assembly and its Committees to meet and to encourage public awareness of, and engagement with, the parliamentary process. It also pays the salaries of Members and reimburses the expenses which enable them to undertake their duties both at the Assembly and in their constituency offices.

The Assembly Commission is a high-achieving and professional organisation providing impartial support to the Assembly and its Members. The Assembly Commission is independent of the Executive and the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The Assembly Commission has approximately 370 staff and an annual revenue budget of £51m. [Our organisational structure is illustrated on the Northern Ireland Assembly Recruitment website.](#)

Contents

The Person	2
About the Role	2
Core Responsibilities	2
Essential Criteria	3
Shortlisting Criterion	4
Assembly Skills & Behaviours	4
Equal Opportunities Statement.....	5
Location	5
Completing the form	5
Recruitment and Selection Framework	6
Stages of the Selection Process.....	6
Disability Confident	7
Key Employee Benefits.....	8
Terms and Conditions of Appointment	9
Equality Monitoring	9
Merit List	9
Communication during the recruitment process	10
Further Information	10

The Person

If appointed, you will work as part of a team of Clerical Officers and will be responsible for the day to day administrative work of the Finance Office to ensure high quality service delivery.

You may previously have worked effectively within a team in the past or be able and willing to do so, and you should have the ability to communicate clearly and effectively as you carry out your new and important role.

About the Role

Clerical Officers appointed to the Finance Office may be asked to work within any of these sections: Payroll, Pensions, Claims and Accounts Payable.

Core Responsibilities

Main duties and responsibilities of the job:

- Provide high quality customer service to a diverse range of stakeholders, both internal and external, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's) and their staff, NI Assembly staff and third-party suppliers.
- Manage own work to ensure the delivery of objectives.
- Process, check, raise and address queries and input financial documentation and information, including invoices, payroll data, expense claims and payments.
- Perform reconciliations and process corrections on general ledger accounts.
- Investigate irregularities and process corrections on a computerised payroll system.
- Efficiently file and record financial documentation and information.
- Respond promptly to e-mail, telephone and face to face queries regarding invoices, payroll, expense claims and payments.
- Record and distribute correspondence, emails, incoming mail / post, monitor and manage electronic mailboxes and deal with routine

correspondence accurately and promptly and forward to relevant staff as appropriate.

- Effectively use Microsoft Office and bespoke internal Assembly financial software systems and databases. Provide accurate information and advice in a professional and helpful manner in line with organisational policies and procedures.
- Comply with all Assembly Commission's staff policies and procedures including Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work policies and procedures.
- Carry out other duties that the Assembly Commission reasonably requires of you.

Essential Criteria

Applicants must, by the closing date for applications, have:

1. GCE 'A' level grade A*-C in 2 separate subjects and 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including English Language and Mathematics. Applications will be considered from applicants with formal qualifications of an equivalent or higher standard to those stated.

AND

At least 2 years' experience in a finance office, or an administrative role carrying out finance duties, in each of the following:

- a) Processing and inputting financial information, such as invoices, payroll data and / or expense claims.
- b) Using effective oral, written and numerical skills to communicate effectively with a diverse range of people at all levels, including team members, members of the public, customers, suppliers and managers.
- c) Organising workload and giving attention to detail to produce accurate, high quality work to deadlines.

- d) Effectively using a financial software package and Microsoft Office products to process financial documents and information.

OR

- 2. At least 4 years' experience in a finance office, or an administrative role carrying out finance duties, in each of a) – d).

Shortlisting Criterion

Should shortlisting be required, the following shortlisting criteria will be applied:

Demonstrate at least 1 years' experience of EITHER performing reconciliations on general ledger accounts and processing correction entries (journals), OR identifying and investigating variances/irregularities on a computerised payroll system and processing corrections.

Assembly Skills & Behaviours

The following Assembly Skills and Behaviours will be assessed during the selection process:

Delivering a quality service

...is about providing a high-quality and efficient service to our customers. It is thinking ahead, managing resources effectively and delivering work on time and to a high standard. It is also using professional or technical expertise to enhance service delivery.

Building relationships and effective communication

...is creating and maintaining positive, professional and respectful internal and external working relationships through effective and appropriate communications.

Initiating improvement and delivering change

...is looking for and being open to new and innovative ideas and improvements

to the service provided. It is being flexible and adapting positively and professionally to sustain performance when the situation changes, workloads increase or priorities change. It is about forming sound, evidence-based decisions and being accountable for results.

Managing and leading self and others

... is setting high standards for ourselves. It is about guiding, motivating and developing others to achieve high performance. It is about engaging others in delivering a corporate vision of excellence, expertise and innovation in support of the Assembly as a legislature.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The Assembly Commission is committed to equality of opportunity in employment and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified applicants irrespective of religious belief, political opinion, race, age, gender, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or people with dependents or without. **All applications for employment will be considered on the basis of merit.**

Location

The successful applicant will be based in Parliament Buildings, Belfast. The role offers hybrid working whereby staff will have the opportunity to work from home for part of the week.

Completing the form

Only the information presented in the application form will be considered by the selection panel. CVs or other supplementary material will not be accepted in place of, or in addition to, completed application forms. Completed online forms must be submitted by **12 noon (UK time) on 17 May 2024.**

[Launch the application portal and complete the application form.](#)

Application forms submitted after the closing time and date will not be

accepted.

Recruitment and Selection Framework

There are five elements within the Recruitment and Selection Framework:

Experience – the knowledge or mastery of an activity or subject gained through involvement in or exposure to it.

Ability – the aptitude or potential to perform to the required standard.

Technical – the demonstration of specific professional skills, knowledge or qualifications.

Assembly Skills and Behaviours – the actions and activities that people do which result in effective performance in a job.

Strengths – the things we do regularly, do well and that motivate us.

The elements that will be assessed for this role are Experience, Ability, Assembly Skills and Behaviours and Strengths and the selection method(s) that will be used are detailed below. Further information on the [Recruitment and Selection Framework](#) are included in the [Guidance on Recruitment and Selection for Applicants](#).

Stages of the Selection Process

Shortlisting

The Selection panel reserve the right to use shortlisting as part of the selection process for this post. Should shortlisting be used, the shortlisting criterion listed above will be applied. The selection panel reserve the right to set a minimum standard for the shortlisting criterion and/or to only invite those who score highest in the shortlisting criterion to the next stage of the selection process, the eligibility sift.

Online Testing

Online testing may be used as a shortlisting tool instead of using a shortlisting criterion. Invitation to testing does not imply that an applicant possesses the essential criteria. The tests, if required, will be held online and instructions and further information will be issued to applicants after the closing date for applications. Only those applicants who meet the minimum standard and who score highest in the tests, will be considered for the next stage of the selection process: the eligibility sift.

Online testing, if required, is planned for the period: 23-28 May 2024.

Eligibility Sift

The essential criteria reflect the experience and knowledge that an applicant must possess in order to be able to undertake the role. An eligibility sift will be carried out on the basis of the information contained in the essential criteria section of the application form. You must therefore demonstrate clearly in your form how, and to what extent, you meet with the essential criteria for the post.

Interview Stage

Applicants invited to interview which will assess the information contained in this booklet.

Interviews are planned for week commencing: 17 June 2024.

Disability Confident

The Assembly Commission is a Disability Confident Committed Employer and for our recruitment, we have committed to:

- ensuring our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible;
- communicating and promoting vacancies;
- offering an interview to disabled people who meet the essential criteria for the job (the Guaranteed Interview Scheme); and
- anticipating and providing reasonable adjustments as required.

The Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS) supports applicants with disabilities or those with a long-term impairment or health condition, that is expected to last for at least 12 months by offering an interview to disabled people who meet the essential criteria for the job. If you are applying under GIS it is therefore important that you include all relevant information in your application form. You should refer to the Guidance on Recruitment and Selection for Applicants for more information.

If an assessment or test is used as a shortlisting tool, then applicants applying under GIS will not be required to complete the assessment or test and will be offered a guaranteed interview, provided that they demonstrate in their application form that they meet the essential criteria for the role.

In instances where an assessment or test forms part of the selection process and is not a shortlisting tool, then all applicants must meet the minimum standard required for that assessment or test, including those applying under GIS.

If you wish to submit your application under the GIS, or if you require adjustments to enable you to participate in any part of the selection process, please indicate this on the application form or contact us at recruitment@niassembly.gov.uk. **Please note that you will be required to provide written confirmation of your disability or long-term health condition from a general practitioner or an appropriate specialist, by the closing date for applications.**

You can get advice or assistance with making an application from your local Jobs and Benefits Office – contact details are available on NIDirect:

[Find contact details for your local Jobs and Benefits Office.](#)

Key Employee Benefits

We offer an annual leave allowance of 25 days, increasing by one day per year up to a maximum of 30 days. In addition, we offer 12 days of public and privilege holidays.

The Assembly Commission will enrol you into the Civil Service Pension Scheme

from the first day of employment. Staff contribute between 4 and 9% of salary and the Assembly Commission contributes a further 34.25%.

We also offer a range of non-salary benefits which include hybrid working; supportive family friendly policies; flexi-time; health and wellbeing initiatives including an Employee Assistance Programme; supported learning and development; Cycle to Work Scheme; Payroll Giving; and volunteering opportunities.

The successful applicant will be given suitable training, including formal specialised courses as necessary.

As an equal opportunities employer, we are happy to talk about the possibility of flexible working in this role with the successful applicant.

[View further details of our employee benefits.](#)

Terms and Conditions of Appointment

This is a permanent appointment. The successful candidate will be an employee of the Assembly Commission. All appointments are subject to the satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

The standard working week is 37 hours, (excluding meal breaks).

Equality Monitoring

Under Fair Employment legislation, we are required to monitor the community background and gender of those applying for jobs. You must therefore complete the equal opportunities monitoring section of the application form when applying for the post.

Merit List

The merit list of applicants deemed to be appointable will remain “live” for 18 months from the date it is signed and may be used to fill any further permanent or fixed term opportunities for the same post.

Communication during the recruitment process

The Assembly Recruitment Team will issue most communication electronically. You should therefore regularly check your email account to make sure you do not miss any important communication. Please note, sometimes the Recruitment Team emails are automatically filtered as spam by email providers.

Further Information

If you require more information on the recruitment process, please contact the Assembly Recruitment Team on 02890 521741.

Further information about the Assembly can be obtained on the [Northern Ireland Assembly website](#).

The Candidate Information Booklet does not constitute any term or condition of employment.