



Northern Ireland
Assembly



Legal Adviser, Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules – 2 posts

1 Full time, 1 Part time (0.5) role

£69,032 - £71,083

Candidate Information Booklet

Completed Application Forms must be submitted no later
than **12 noon (UK time) on 30 January 2026**

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

Foreword

Thank you for your interest in the position of Legal Adviser, Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules in the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission (the Assembly Commission). There are two posts – one full time and one part time role.

The Assembly operates in a dynamic political and parliamentary environment, and as a newly appointed Legal Adviser in the Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, you will be provided with an excellent opportunity to make an important and valued contribution to the work of the Assembly 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. The Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules is an integral part of the Legal, Governance and Research Directorate. Legal Advisers in the Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules support the Examiner of Statutory Rules to discharge their legislative scrutiny functions under Assembly Standing Orders, advising Assembly Committees and the Assembly in relation to delegated legislation and delegated powers.

In turn, we offer a competitive salary and an excellent pension provision where you contribute 7.55% 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.

If you would like to find out more about the post before making an application please contact Simon.Kelly@niassembly.gov.uk or telephone 02890 521 965.



Tara Caul

Director of Legal, Governance and Research 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 of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and makes laws, scrutinises the work of the Executive and represents the views of the public. It is the prime source of authority in respect of all devolved responsibilities.

The **Assembly Commission** enables the successful operation of the Assembly by providing the staff, services and facilities which are needed to support parliamentary business. The Assembly Commission is a body corporate, comprising the Speaker and five MLAs. The Assembly Commission delegates the day-to-day running of the Assembly to the Clerk/Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team (SMT).

The priorities of the Assembly Commission, as set out in its [Corporate Strategy 2023 - 2028](#), are that:

- The Assembly will be empowered to achieve its full potential.
- The public will understand and value the role of the Assembly and be engaged in its work.
- Our staff will be a motivated, resilient and expert team.
- Our systems and facilities will be modern, secure and efficient.

The Assembly Commission is a high-achieving and professional organisation, providing impartial support to the Assembly and its Members.

The Assembly Commission has approximately 400 staff and an annual budget of £67m, and is independent of the Executive and the Civil Service. The

organisational structure is illustrated on the [recruitment website](#).

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About the Role

The Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules carries out scrutiny of delegated legislation and of delegated powers in primary legislation for the Northern Ireland Assembly. Legal Advisers in the Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules provide specialist legal advice to support the discharge of this function.

Legal Advisers provide objective legal advice, independent of government, to the Examiner of Statutory Rules and the Committees of the Assembly in relation to delegated legislation before the Assembly, on relevant technical and human rights law, and in relation to relevant parliamentary procedure.

The Person

You will have the ability to provide clear and authoritative legal advice on complex matters, at pace. You will be able to work independently and to work effectively within a team. You will be able to work collaboratively within the Office of the Examiner of Statutory Rules and with colleagues across the Assembly Commission staff. You will have the ability to build effective new working relationships and to understand all aspects of the legislative and parliamentary landscape.

Core Responsibilities

The successful applicant will:

- Provide comprehensive, authoritative, objective, and timely legal advice to the Examiner of Statutory Rules and to the Committees of the Assembly in relation to:
 - delegated legislation.
 - the exercise of delegated powers.
 - matters of public law.
 - matters of constitutional law.
 - human rights law.

- the Windsor Framework.
- parliamentary procedure.
- matters concerning statutory interpretation.
- Provide legal advice to the Director of Legal, Governance and Research Services, and to the Examiner of Statutory Rules.
- Conduct legal research, including using electronic and other resources to provide authoritative advice, at short notice, on unfamiliar areas of law.
- Attend the Committees of the Assembly to deliver legal advice.
- Maintain membership of the relevant professional body (the Bar of Northern Ireland or the Law Society of Northern Ireland), undertake sufficient and relevant training, and act in accordance with the applicable code of conduct in the discharge of your duties.
- Develop and maintain effective relationships with senior staff and political actors in the Assembly and colleagues in other legislatures.
- Regularly participate in or lead teams to deliver legislation or corporate and organisational objectives.
- Comply with all of the Assembly Commission's staff policies and procedures including the Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work policies.
- Manage information and records in accordance with established policies and statutory requirements.
- Carry out such other duties as the Assembly Commission reasonably requires of you.

Essential Criteria

At the closing date for applications, applicants must:

1. Hold a first or bachelor's degree of minimum 2.2 classification (or equivalent);

AND

2. be entitled to practice in Northern Ireland as a barrister or solicitor;

AND

3. have at least four years' post-qualification experience ('PQE') in law to include evidence of the following:

- (a) interpreting, and providing legal advice in relation to, legislation;
- (b) providing legal advice in relation to human rights;
- (c) demonstrating legal analytical ability and sound judgement in the resolution of complex legal problems; and
- (d) communicating with clients with clarity and confidence.

AND

4. provide evidence of a knowledge of constitutional, administrative and human rights law in Northern Ireland.

Shortlisting Criteria

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

At least 3 years' PQE in providing legal advice in relation to one of the following areas of law:

- statutory interpretation;
- constitutional law.

Assembly Skills and 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.

Parliamentary and political understanding

... is displaying an appropriate understanding of the wider political environment; what the Assembly does and how our role fits in; and the level of public scrutiny to which the actions and decisions of Assembly staff are exposed. It requires impartiality, integrity and political sensitivity.

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 Assembly Commission operates a Hybrid Working Policy and the balance between working in Parliament Buildings and working at home will depend on business and service need.

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 30 January 2026**.

[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, Technical, and Assembly Skills and Behaviours 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

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.

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. If

shortlisting is not necessary, all applicants who have demonstrated the essential criteria will proceed to the next stage of the selection process.

Interview Stage

Applicants invited to interview will be assessed using the Essential Criteria and Assembly Skills and Behaviours as outlined above.

Part of the interview process will be the delivery of a presentation. The subject of the presentation will be advised to the applicant on the day of the interview and the applicant will be expected to present information to the selection panel.

Interviews are planned for week commencing: 2 March 2026

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 a competitive salary, excellent pension provision and generous annual leave allowance.

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 pre-appointment enquiries which include an Access NI basic check and the satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

The standard working week is 37 hours, (excluding meal breaks). Working hours will be dictated by the mode of operation of the Assembly and may involve work into late evenings and on occasions, at weekends and on public holidays.

The taking of annual leave may be influenced by the parliamentary timetable.

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 normally 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 or email us at recruitment@niassembly.gov.uk.

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.