



Role: Senior Media Specialist
Area: Group Centre
Sub-Area: Corporate Affairs
Location: Dublin

Duration: Permanent **Salary:** Competitive **Ref:** 236G18

Ervia is a commercial semi-state company which provides strategic national gas and water infrastructure and services in Ireland. Through our regulated business, Gas Networks Ireland, we build and operate one of the most modern and safe gas networks in the world. In 2014, we took responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Ireland's water and wastewater assets through our other regulated business Irish Water. Ervia directly employs over 1,600 people who deliver services to 1.6 million customers daily. We are guardians of the national assets and experts in our field. Our infrastructure supports economic and social development, protects the environment and enhances the health and quality of life of the Irish people.

The Role:

Reporting to and working closely with the Head of Media Relations, the role involves managing day to day interactions with national print and broadcast media along with an input into a wider Corporate Affairs brief. It will also involve supporting the management and co-ordination of the media output of 3 Regional Leads and their teams who are responsible for local media relationships. The suitable candidate must demonstrate a deep understanding of the media and political/public affairs landscape in Ireland along with proven experience dealing with local and national media on high profile and complex issues. They must also demonstrate a wider knowledge of internal and external in-house Corporate Communications, a high degree of flexibility and a proven ability to generate and deliver their own work plan to tight deadlines. The candidate will also be expected to collaborate on projects with Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs teams across the business, providing strategic input into media and stakeholder strategies and plans and leading the delivery of these media strategies.

The successful candidate will be a credible representative of Ervia and Irish Water to national print and broadcast media and have the ability to build and maintain strong relationships with key media influencers.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support the Head of Media Relations in the delivery of media strategy aligned with the overall business strategy and strategic Corporate Communications objectives of Ervia and Irish Water.
- Working closely with and supporting where necessary the Stakeholder Communications Manager who has overall responsibility for regional media relations and stakeholder teams
- Collaborate closely with the wider Ervia and Irish Water Corporate Affairs Team
- Ability to deliver high quality integrated media relations campaigns as a representative of a national utility
- Delivery of proactive and reactive national media strategies for business initiatives and emerging issues under the strategic lead of Head of Media Relations
- Maintain and develop excellent relationships with relevant national journalists across print, broadcast and online media outlets
- Oversee and support the delivery of regional media strategies by Regional Media Leads in line with the overall Communications Strategy and key communications objectives working closely with Stakeholder Communications Manager who has overall responsibility for regional communications teams
- Support the management of reactive and crisis media relations on emerging issues in national media as required

- Act as direct point of contact for national media queries
- Provide support on non-domestic stakeholder projects as required
- Work closely with multi-disciplinary teams across Irish Water
- Any other tasks as required

Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- 6+ years' experience, managing corporate communications or media relations on behalf of a large organisation
- Relevant 3rd level qualification in Public Relations or a related field
- Experience managing crisis communications is essential
- In-house corporate communications/media relations experience is essential
- A strong understanding of water services would be a distinct advantage
- Knowledge of local government or semi-state sector would be a distinct advantage
- Experience and understanding of all aspects of the communications mix including customer and stakeholder communications, corporate communications, public relations, media relations and internal communications
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills and fast turnaround capacity
- Strong influencing skills, proven initiative, clear strategic focus and strong capability to deliver complex integrated media relations programmes across a range of channels within tight deadlines
- High level of communications skills to allow effective networking and presentation of highly complex information to diverse groups of stakeholders
- Proven track record of working collaboratively and establishing good working relationships across multiple functions and business areas
- Proven adaptability and ability to change focus and direction in line with business strategy and requirements
- Excellent stakeholder management skills

The closing date for receipt of applications for this vacancy is the 17th December, 2018

Applications, including a current Curriculum Vitae should be emailed to: recruit@ervia.ie

Please include the Reference Number for this Role when making an application