



## Focus on Finance - Teresa Lewis

### Financial Controller – Customer Service

One of the best things about Thames is the opportunities available to its employees. Since joining Thames Water in 1999 I have had just over 10 different Finance roles within either Finance or the Customer Service division.

I joined as a CIMA qualified accountant from a company called Brown Brothers who distributed car parts. My first role in Thames Water was a Level 6 Management Accountant looking after Cash and Debt reporting based in Walnut Court, Swindon. The role in Thames was challenging with the focus moving from producing P&L for c100 branches to producing balance sheet, understanding working capital and cash flow. The type of business was very different - car part distribution to the water industry. There were exciting times ahead.

As well as a variety of roles, Thames Water has also given me the opportunity to develop and progress through the levels from a Level 6 to an ML4 Manager as I am today in my position as Financial Controller. Today I manage a team of 12 and together we are responsible for reporting of c£2bn of sales and cash. We are also responsible for producing the numbers for our Business Plan that has recently been submitted to Ofwat.

Opportunities come in different forms too; one of these being the coordinator for the Graduate program in Finance, ensuring the Graduates get the best outcome from their placements. Today this role is fulfilled by Emma Prince, a former graduate.

It's not all work here at Thames, we work hard but we do take time out to have some fun. For many years I took part in the Raft Race where we raised money for Wateraid. Team building is a great way to see other parts of the business, over the years trips have included visiting Crossness Sewage Treatment Work; a site clean-up at Swindon Sewage Treatment works; a trip down a sewer at Abbey Mills.

Development is an important factor to Thames Water and the Finance Team are currently offering the opportunity to work on various projects to help develop careers, to learn new skills and to gain a broader understanding of the business through working in other teams. These opportunities are updated and circulated monthly. If you're thinking of applying for trying something new, my advice is to go for it – you won't regret it!



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