

Focus on Finance - Nicola Dennis



The best thing about my role as Senior Management Accountant is that I am constantly on the move and rarely spend a whole day sitting at my desk. In fact, in a typical week I split my time across two or three different locations from Oxford to Reading to Essex.

I joined Thames Water as a passed finalist CIMA student 18 months ago and had already been through a Graduate scheme elsewhere. I came from a small technology company and wanted to work for Thames Water to experience something completely different. Despite my lack of experience in the industry, I soon found myself talking to friends and family about the interesting facts I had learnt and felt as if I had been here for years.

My job is to be the main point of contact within Finance for the 150 people within Waste Networks with a budget of £60million a year. Although Waste Networks isn't the most glamorous part of the business, it is a fascinating and dynamic area full of constant change. So constantly changing, in fact, that if we have a period

of wet weather, it directly impacts my workload! During my time here I have also been lucky enough (is lucky the right word..?) to visit a live sewer and literally wade through the contents...we even found a pair of false teeth down there during the visit! These factors truly allow me to appreciate how my role relates to the wider business, the importance of our "Bin it, don't Block it!" campaign, and how I play my part in our company vision, "Here for You".

Within the Operations Finance team, month end tends to be the only time when the entire team is in the office together. The intense month end period lasts three to four days after which time we all head out to conduct our Performance Meetings with budget holders in our own areas. Each month I present each area's results to their teams and we look at a variety of things from salary costs and headcount, to the amount spent on cleaning sewers.

As well as the usual day to day work, I am currently carrying out a project to fundamentally change the way we report Waste Network jobs. This will allow me to save the team six days' worth of work each month. When I came up with the idea, my manager was incredibly supportive and allowed me to dedicate one week each month to work on it over a period of three months, whilst covering my usual workload for me. This support for innovation generates excellent opportunities to get ideas out there and really make a difference.

If you're thinking of applying for a role with us, my advice is to go for it – you won't regret it!

Check out our current vacancies at
jobs.thameswater.co.uk