

Information Booklet
Central Data Unit
Data Analyst - Grade 6
(18-month Contract/Secondment)

Apply by:

5.00PM on Friday 23rd June 2023 to:

Email: jobapplications@lgma.ie



About the LGMA

The organisation

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is a state agency that provides a range of services and supports to the local government sector. We are an agency of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, primarily funded by local authorities.

Through our work with local authorities and other stakeholders, we support the co-ordinated and effective delivery of local government services and policy.

Our work is guided by the local authorities and geared towards helping them to improve efficiency across their services; to implement change; and to make use of leading practice from inside and outside the sector.

Working for the LGMA gives you the opportunity to gain experience at the heart of local government and to make a real difference for local authorities and citizens in Ireland.

What we do

The LGMA's work extends across a number of diverse areas in order to meet the changing needs of the local government sector.

- We drive, monitor, and maintain shared services projects across the local government sector.
- We advise and support on strategy and policy development across the local government sector.
- We provide professional Human Resources (HR) and Industrial Relations (IR) guidance, advice, and support to local authorities.
- We develop, procure, maintains, and provides support for several internal and managed ICT systems in use in the local government sector.
- Our Libraries Development section is the national advisor and development agency for public libraries in Ireland.
- We provide research and communications support to the local government sector.
- We provide programme management and innovation support to local authorities.
- We are at the forefront in leading several national projects including:

- **Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office**
Co-ordinating and supporting the local government sector to meet housing needs, including social and affordable housing, by investigating and advising on best practice for housing delivery, including in relation to non-traditional delivery channels and the streamlining of existing delivery methods.
- **National Town Centre First**
Co-ordinating and supporting the local government sector in the delivery of 'Housing for All' and 'Our Rural Future' to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction in town centres through the Town Centre First programme.
- **Emergency Vacant Housing Delivery Unit**
Co-ordinating and supporting local government actions to identify and repurpose vacant property to meet emergency housing needs as part of the Emergency Housing Delivery (Ukraine) National Coordination Unit.
- **National Waste Management**
Co-ordinating and supporting the delivery of the local government commitments under the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy by re-aligning governance and coordinating the already established national shared services waste programmes to ensure the efficient delivery of local, regional, and national waste targets.
- **Water Services Transition Office (WSTO)**
Supporting the transition of Local Authority Water Services to Irish Water.

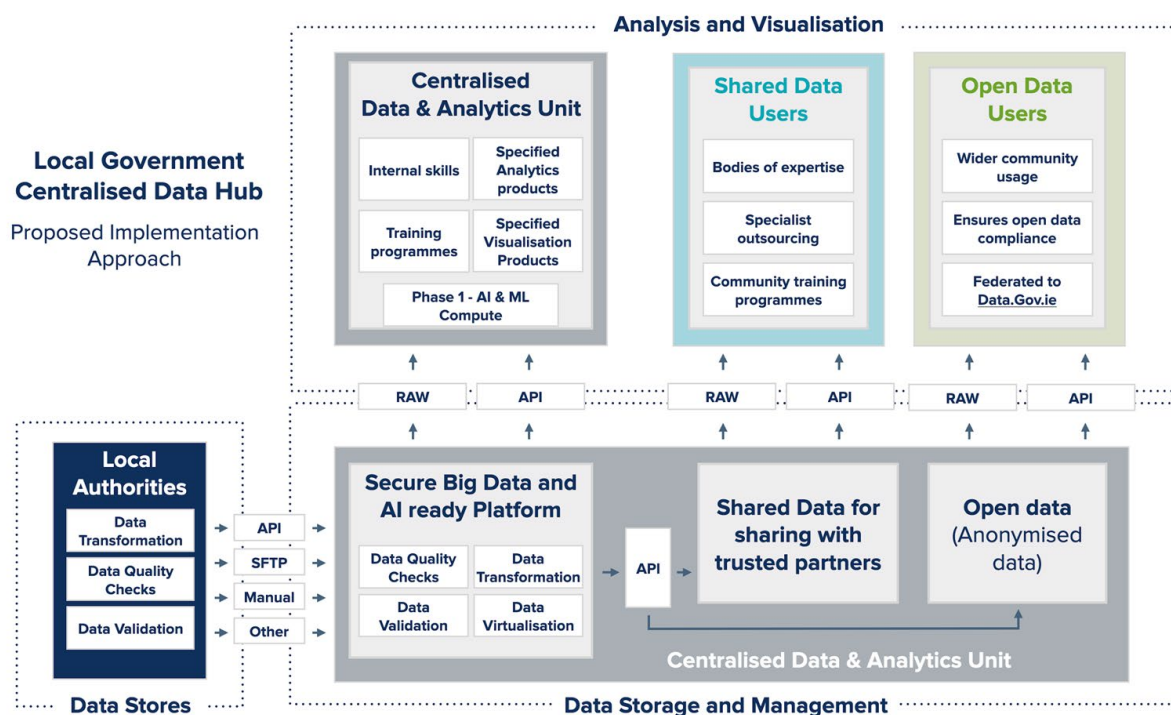
Find out more about the LGMA at www.lgma.ie

The Central Data Unit

The LGMA received approval to establish a Central Data Unit (CDU) for Local Government in 2021. The CDU will set up a data hub for the sector. This will include the creation of a series of new data management services using software solutions and a newly created team. The CDU will look to position itself as a forward thinking and progressive publicly funded initiative that has expertise in big data analytics using public sector data and distributed data collection methodologies. It will play a role in the sector of driving forward the analytics debate and the need for better data use and reuse.

The primary objective is to automate, as much as possible, the collection of strategically important data from all local authorities and to undertake analysis of that data and production of a range of innovative visualisations. The data will also be made available to third parties and as open data.

Figure 1 Local Government Central Data Unit Technical Solution



The key requirements of the hub are to facilitate:

- **Data input and ingestion** – to cover the collection of data from various partners and sources and specifically to enable automated ingestion of real-time data utilising APIs and stream processing technologies (including automated verification and validation) that should significantly reduce resource needs for providers and data cleaning
- **Data storage management** – to ensure data is stored in a way to enable it to be used which will include the utilising of big data storage and processing techniques and technologies
- **Data protection and recovery** – to ensure data is treated fairly, ensure compliance with relevant data protection policies and backup data in the event of an issue
- **Data re-use** – will enable data re-use in various system types including the specified analytics and visualisation tools as well as shared and open data provision
- **Data analytics** – to ensure there is access to the range of analytical processes as possible
- **Data visualisation** – to ensure the analytics outputs can be visualised in a meaningful way considering that different analysis can be visualised better in certain ways and for different audiences such as dashboards or map-based interpretations
- **Reporting** - to ensure analytical outputs and findings can be easily condensed into easy to understand and impactful reports to enable senior management to rapidly understand the findings and meaning of the analysis
- **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** – to help ensure that the data is managed in a way to enable advanced technologies such as these to be utilised now and in the future

Working in partnership, a phased programme of data extraction and output production will be developed for the sector. This is an exciting opportunity for a data enthusiast to be involved in the establishment of the first central data hub for the local government sector.

About the role

Data Analyst Grade 6

In summary, the primary objectives of this position include taking a senior role in building out the function of the recently established Central Data Unit by contributing to the development of a data system, automating the collection of strategically important government sector data, applying appropriate statistical analyses to that data, and producing a range of innovative visualisations to communicate analysis results. This is an opportunity to use and extend your incredible data skills to make a genuine difference to strategic imperatives influencing every aspect of life in Ireland (including housing, homelessness, heritage, climate, and more).

You will

- Work directly with the Central Data Unit management team, the Research Unit, and government sector stakeholders to assess, identify and collect agreed sectoral data requirements within a well-defined timeframe. This will be a significant and vitally important effort in the setup of each project that the CDU will work on.
- Take a senior role in the architecture, design, implementation, and maintenance of a central, Cloud-based/hosted data repository, and promote data re-use by design.
- Design, build, and maintain automated data pipelines (batch and real-time) from disparate data sources into a central repository, incorporating data validation/cleansing/wrangling as appropriate. Provide leadership within the CDU team to extend the unit's standards on pipeline development practices.
- Identify and apply a range of statistical models appropriate to each dataset and the associated project's business objectives. Plan and test for statistical significance as necessary for specific projects.
- Architect, design, and implement highly intuitive reports, and interactive dashboards using BI/Data Visualisation tools and software development languages, as appropriate. Build high-end visualisations to meet sectoral output requirements. Contribute to the unit's UI/UX standards development.
- Contribute to the development and presentation of training collateral to assist different target audiences in using those visualisations to make informed business decisions.
- Communicate your analysis output – influence/inform stakeholders, develop/present training collateral to end-users, enhance knowledge within the team.
- Take a lead role in the development, application, and maintenance of data quality standards and data security standards – with particular reference to GDPR standards.
- Take a lead role in the design and implementation of solution health-monitoring processes, including solution performance/optimization, error detection/handling, log standardization, and others.

- Support deployment and maintenance of solutions developed by the Central Data Unit over time.
- Work in an agile environment, interacting with a range of sectors that engage with the LGMA, adhering to agreed requirements, timelines, and standards.
- Work within small teams or independently. Provide mentorship and leadership to junior team members, collaborate widely with peers.
- Strictly adhere to data protection/retention/recovery legislation and guidelines

Essential Requirements

Candidates must have:

- A Primary degree or Masters degree in a quantitative discipline (Data Science, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, etc) or equivalent professional training
- 6+ years of professional experience in performing data analysis
- Proficiency and experience in the use of data management tooling, and data collection/data pipeline development techniques
- Proficiency and experience in the application of statistical analysis techniques (descriptive, exploratory, diagnostic, predictive, prescriptive) using complex datasets.
- Proficiency and experience in software development/deployment (Python, R, PHP, JavaScript, etc)
- Proficiency and experience in the use of SQL (any flavour)
- Experience in the use of BI/Visualisation tools for large data sets (e.g. Tableau, Power BI, Looker, etc)
- Be inquisitive, be innovative, and always interested in learning more.

AND

Demonstrate the following competencies as set out in the LGMA Competency Framework (see Appendix)

Management and Change
Bringing about change
Influencing and negotiating
Delivering Results
Problem solving and decision making
Delivering quality outcomes
Performance Through People
Leading and motivating
Communicating effectively
Personal Effectiveness
Qualifications and knowledge
Personal Motivation, initiative and Achievement

Desirable but not essential

- Experience using a Cloud platform (e.g. Azure, AWS, GCP, OCI) and Cloud data technologies (Data Integration, Data Lake, Data Warehouse, MLaaS, etc)
- Experience of working in an Agile development environment
- Experience in ensuring data protection via GDPR compliance.
- Experience in website development
- An appreciation and understanding of the local government sector and the key IT systems being utilised across the sector

Application and selection

How to apply

All applications should be emailed directly to jobapplications@lgma.ie no later than **5pm on Friday 23rd June 2023**. Applications must be made on the official application form and all sections must be completed in full. When completing the application form, accuracy is essential. The information you supply in the application form will play a central part of the selection process. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your application within two working days of applying, please check your junk/spam folders as email notifications may be filtered into your junk/spam email folders. Any other queries regarding your application form should be emailed to jobapplications@lgma.ie

Shortlisting

The Agency reserves the right to shortlist applications based on the information supplied in the application form. In the event of a shortlisting exercise being employed, the Interview Board will examine the information provided in your application, assess it against the criteria based on the requirements for the position and decide if you will be shortlisted, relative to the other candidates applying for the position.

Interview

Admission to the interview is conditional on receipt of a completed application form by the required cut-off date. The onus is on all applicants to make themselves available for the obligatory interview on the date specified by the LGMA and to make whatever arrangements are necessary to ensure that they receive communications sent to them at the address specified on their application form. Virtual interviews are taking place over MS Teams. Instructions and guidance and links will be sent to you in advance of interview should you be shortlisted for interview. Interviews will be conducted by an Interview Board set up by the LGMA. The Interview Board will assess the merits of candidates. Only candidates who reach such a standard as the Interview Board consider satisfactory in the interview will be considered for selection. Candidates at interview must demonstrate relevant experience and job-related achievements and the following key competencies as set out in LGMA Competency Framework available in the Appendix.

Panels

Panels may be formed on the basis of such interview. Candidates whose names are on a panel and who satisfy the LGMA that they possess the qualifications declared for the office and that they are otherwise suitable for appointment may with the life of the panel be appointed as appropriate vacancies arise. The life of the panel will be one year.

Feedback & Review

Candidates have the right to seek feedback from their interview. Should a candidate be unhappy with an action or decision in relation to their application for appointment, they have the right to seek a review of the process. This request must be made within 5 working days of receiving notification of the decision on their application.

Deeming of Candidate to be Withdrawn

Candidates who do not attend for interview as requested or do not furnish such evidence as requested in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration.

Offer of Appointment

The LGMA shall require persons to whom an appointment is offered to take up such appointment within a period of not more than one month. If they fail to take up the appointment within such period, or such longer period as the Agency in its absolute discretion may determine, the Agency shall not appoint them. All appointments are subject to receipt of satisfactory references and candidates may be required to produce documentary evidence of qualifications or experience claimed in their applications.

Probationary Period

All new employees are required to satisfactorily complete a probationary period. In accordance with the 'Terms and Conditions of Employment' in their employment contract employees will be required to serve an initial probationary period. During this period, the employee's performance on the job and potential abilities are evaluated to determine suitability for the position. At the end of this probationary period, a formal assessment will be carried out by the employee's line manager, resulting in a decision on whether the employee has completed their probation satisfactorily.

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify their application.

The Local Government Management Agency is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

Principal Conditions of Service

General

The appointment is to a temporary post in the Local Government Management Agency and is subject to general terms and conditions in operation relating to appointments in the Agency.

Remuneration

The salary scale applicable to this position is as follows as at 1st March, 2023:

Point No.	1	2	3	4	5
Salary	€52,557	€53,811	€55,338	€58,213	€59,929
Point No.	LSI 1	LSI 2			
Salary	€62,063	€64,209			

The salary shall be fully inclusive and shall be as determined from time to time. The holder of the office shall pay to the LGMA any fees or other monies (other than his/her inclusive salary) payable to or received by him/her by virtue of his/her office or in respect of services which he/she is required by or under any enactment to perform. Entry will be at the minimum of the scale and the rate of remuneration will not be subject to negotiation and may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy. Different terms and conditions may apply if you are currently a serving civil or public servant. Subject to satisfactory performance increments may be payable in line with current Government Policy.

Tenure and Contract

The contract duration is for an 18-month period from date of appointment.

Hours of Attendance

Hours of attendance will be as fixed from time to time. Typically, hours will be of the order of 35 hours per week. The position holder will be required to work a five-day week. The LGMA currently have a flexible working hour attendance scheme in operation.

Location

At present the LGMA has offices at two locations in Dublin. When absent from home or headquarters on official duty appointees will be paid appropriate travelling expenses and subsistence allowances, subject to normal regulations.

Annual leave

The Annual Leave allowance for New Entrants is 30 days. This allowance is subject to the usual conditions regarding the granting of annual leave in the LGMA, is based on a five-day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays.

Confidentiality

All enquiries, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone outside those directly involved in the recruitment process.

Freedom of Information

Candidates can expect that all enquiries, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014.

Data protection

The information submitted with an application is used in processing the candidature and subsequent employment (if successful) and such information is held subject to the rights and obligations of the Data Protection Acts.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with the successful candidate(s).

Appendix - Grade 6 Level Competencies

Management and Change		Delivering Results		Performance Through People		Personal Effectiveness	
1.1	Mission and Vision and Values	2.1	Problem Solving and Decision Making	3.1	Leading and Motivating	4.1	Qualifications and Knowledge
1.2	Strategic Ability	2.2	Operational Planning	3.2	Managing Performance	4.2	Resilience and Personal Wellbeing
1.3	Political Awareness	2.3	Managing Resources	3.3	Managing Conflict	4.3	Integrity
1.4	Standards, Ethics and Governance	2.4	Ensuring Compliance	3.4	Communicating Effectively	4.4	Personal Motivation, Initiative and Achievement
1.5	Networking and Representing	2.5	Delivering Quality Outcomes				
1.5	Bringing About Change						
1.7	Influencing and Negotiating						
1.8	Safety, Health and Welfare at Work						