**Information for applicants**

**Business Improvement Officer (Communications and Engagement)**

**Our mission**

To provide good quality affordable homes and services, with our communities and partners, throughout Scotland.

**Our vision**

Great homes

Great services

Great people

**Our values**

Customer First Our customer comes first and we will always aim to achieve high quality outcomes for customers.

Excellence We value excellence and quality and aim to achieve high standards in all we do. We always strive to be the best that we can be.

Accountability We are accountable for our actions and we take responsibility and ownership for outcomes.

One Team We work as one team and build excellent working relationships to achieve our goals.

Respect We value high standards of fairness, treating everyone with consideration and dignity. We show this through our everyday words and actions.

**About Cairn**

We are here for our tenants and customers to help meet the housing and wider needs of local communities.

Our head office is in Edinburgh and we also have offices in Bellshill and Inverness. We have 182 full and part time staff.

We are regulated by the Scottish Housing Regulator and we work in partnership with the Scottish Government and local authorities across Scotland.

The Board of Management is our governing body, whose role is to provide strategic direction for the organisation, with advice and professional support from the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. The Board is made up of individuals, including tenants, with a wide range of professional skills and experience.

Cairn was formed as an independent organisation in 1990. We are a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status and governed by the legislation and regulatory standards required of Registered Social Landlords.

Cairn manages almost 3,500 homes across 24 local authority areas. We have a range of partnerships with councils and voluntary agencies, providing a range of housing and support services.

Some of our properties include:

**General needs housing** is suitable for anyone aged 16 or over. Available in a range of sizes and types, it is suitable for single people, couples and families.

**Amenity ousing** has specific design features, such as raised sockets that make these properties particularly appropriate for anyone with a medical need or older people who wish to live independently.

# Sheltered or retirement housing is specifically designed with older people in mind. Tenants live independently in flats or bungalows, with a range of additional shared facilities.

#### About the job

Please see the role profile.

#### About our terms and conditions of employment

#### Duration

This post is fixed term to cover maternity leave. The anticipated duration of the maternity leave is 12 months.

#### Salary

The salary for this post is £26,640 to £33,300 per annum. Maximum entry point is £29,304 per annum dependent on qualifications and experience.

#### Hours of work

34.5 hours per week. Working hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, with one hour unpaid meal break. Although not contractual, flexi-time is in operation.

#### Annual leave

28 days annual leave per annum, increased to 31 days after three full years’ service after 1st October. After a further two years’ service at 1st October the entitlement is increased to 33 days.

#### Public holidays

10 days public holidays. Two days are taken at Easter with the remaining eight days taken over Christmas and New Year.

#### Company sick pay

Please note there is no company sick pay in the first 6 month’s continuous service.

#### Probationary period

Your employment would be subject to a probationary period of three months.

**Training and development**

We are fully committed to ongoing development for all employees.

**About our application process**

#### General

Please do not enclose your C.V. We need information from all applicants to be presented in a consistent format as shortlisting decisions will be based on the information you provide in the application form. It is therefore important that you complete all sections of the form as fully as possible. If you require more space than the form allows, please continue on a separate sheet. Your application form will be photocopied so please complete it in black ink or typeface.

#### Role profile

This details the main purpose and duties of the role and sets out what we consider are the essential and desirable requirements for this post. The information you supply on the application form should address these requirements as this will demonstrate your skills, abilities, experience and competencies relevant to the post.

#### Relatives of Cairn staff or Board members

We ask if you are related to employees or Board members as housing associations are legally required to identify and record this information to prevent any suspicion of favouritism. Being related to staff or Board members does not prevent you from being employed with us, but failure to disclose such a relationship may do so. Details should include the nature of relationship, for example, niece or husband, and the name of the employee or Board member. If in doubt, please ask.

#### References

Please supply names and contact details of two people who can comment on your suitability for the post. One of these must be your current employer (or, if you are unemployed, your last employer). Referees should not be close relatives, friends or partners. References will not be contacted until after interview.

#### Qualifications

Under the heading of University/College/Other, please also include qualifications gained through other forms of learning such as correspondence, open or distance.

Please do not enclose copies of qualification certificates with your application. If you are invited to interview you will be asked to bring evidence of your highest relevant qualifications with you.

#### Other relevant training

Use this space to tell us about any other relevant training you have undertaken, which has not led to a recognised qualification but which is relevant to the post you are applying for.

#### Present or most recent employment

If you have been with your current or last employer for a number of years and have held different posts during that time, please clarify this. If any of the earlier posts held were more relevant to the post you are applying for, please ensure that you tell us about them.

#### Statement in support of application

Please provide us with any additional information which helps to show how you meet the requirements of the post. Include experience gained through voluntary work, if relevant.

#### Disclosure Scotland

The successful candidate will be subject to a criminal conviction check through Disclosure Scotland, the cost of which will be met by Cairn.

#### Asylum and Immigration Act 1996

In order to comply with the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 Cairn has to be satisfied that you are legally able to work in the U.K. If you are invited to interview you will be asked to bring appropriate documentation with you, for example, a passport, birth certificate, P60.

#### Equal opportunities

We strive to be an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from people irrespective of their sex, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic origin disability or sexual orientation.

**Our commitment to applicants with disabilities**

As a ‘Positive about Disabled People’ symbol user, we are committed to a positive approach to persons who consider themselves to have a disability under the legislation and undertakes to fulfil various disability commitments outlined by Jobcentre Plus to those persons.

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disability as:

* A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

One of our commitments relates to guaranteeing an interview to all disabled applicants who meet the *minimum criteria* for the job.

In relation to the Equality Act 2010, we ask all job applicants to complete the section on the application form regarding whether you consider yourself to have a disability and, if you do, whether you wish to take advantage of a guaranteed interview if you meet all the essential criteria as outlined in the person specification. However, there is no requirement to complete this form.

#### Returning your completed application form

Completed application forms must be returned to us at the address below or to recruitment@cairnha.com by the closing date of **17th February 2016**.

If you are submitting your application in the post, please ensure that you pay the correct postage cost, otherwise your application may miss the deadline.

Interviews are intended to be held at our head office at Citypoint, Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh on **24th February 2016.**

If you have any queries about your application, or the recruitment process in general, please contact the HR Team on 0800 990 3405 (free from landlines) or 0300 456 1245 (local rate from mobiles).

Cairn Housing Association

Citypoint

65 Haymarket Terrace

Edinburgh

EH12 5HD

[**recruitment@cairnha.com**](mailto:recruitment@cairnha.com)

[**www.cairnha.com**](http://www.cairnha.com)