

»»» My life at the Authority...

Sonya Bowness: HMI Supervision

»»» *What are your main duties?*

Everything we do at the Authority goes back to our statutory objectives of protecting customers, reducing financial crime and maintaining confidence in the Island's financial services sector. I work in the High & Medium Impact (HMI) Supervision Division and our team feeds into the objectives through the delivery of effective supervision of high and medium impact licenceholders.

»»» *What are the most important qualities you need in your role?*

Regulators need an extensive working knowledge of governance, risk management and compliance, in addition to the regulation itself. Strong analytical skills are a must. Regulators need to be able to quickly and accurately assimilate information, consider any associated risks and summarise effectively. Being a regulator also requires highly effective interpersonal (verbal and written) communication skills and the ability to deal with difficult or contentious issues. I also believe continuous development and learning to be crucial to the role of a regulator. With a rapidly changing social and economic environment it is essential to be able to keep abreast of emerging risk trends and to be adaptable and resilient.

»»» *What do you enjoy most about working for the Authority?*

During my time here, I have come to value the varied and interesting work. I find that routine can make us complacent, so I try to look for challenges that push me to grow, even after more than seven years at the Authority I continue to learn and develop.

»»» *How does the Authority support your career development?*

There is a real breadth and depth of knowledge within the Authority, with experts in all fields. I have learned so much simply from cross-divisional working on cases. The Authority has also supported me through several professional qualifications, such as the ICA Diploma and a BTEC 7 in Investigation.

»»» *What advice would you give to someone who wants to work for the Authority?*

During the course of my career I have worked in the private banking, fund management and life assurance sectors. I have never enjoyed a job as much this one. It keeps me challenged and motivated. If you are someone who likes to learn and is keen to make a difference, the Authority could be a perfect fit for you.



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