

focus on

a career in  
trading standards

# local government talent: careers



## What is trading standards?

Trading standards is about protecting businesses and consumers from rogue traders and illegal trading practices.

## What kind of work would I be doing?

If you've ever bought designer clothing with a fake label or an unsafe electrical product, you may have needed the help of a trading standards professional. Trading standards work involves providing advice to consumers about their rights, monitoring the standard of products and services, making routine inspections to businesses, investigating complaints and on occasions enforcing consumer law.

As a trading standards professional you would be involved in a wide variety of work including: ensuring the correct transport of livestock to market; checking weighing machines and food labels in shops; dealing with traders selling faulty goods; investigating misleading advertising campaigns; giving legal advice to people about their consumer rights; and giving evidence in court cases against rogue traders.

## Where can I find out more?

local government careers information,  
job vacancies and talent pool:  
[www.LGtalent.com](http://www.LGtalent.com)

national graduate development programme:  
[www.ngdp.co.uk](http://www.ngdp.co.uk)

TSI careers website:  
[www.tscareers.org.uk](http://www.tscareers.org.uk)

Insider view: 'After working for a voluntary organisation for several years, I decided I wanted a change of career and applied for a job as a consumer adviser with the council. I'd had some previous experience providing information on consumer issues and had worked with trading standards staff, which all came in useful for my application. After I was employed, the council paid for me to study for the Diploma in Consumer Affairs via a correspondence course. I now supervise a small team of consumer advisers within trading standards. I get a great deal of job satisfaction from my work.'

#### What kind of jobs are there?

Here are some examples of trading standards related job roles:

- animal health officer
- consumer adviser
- enforcement officer
- fair trading officer
- legal executive
- markets officer
- technical assistant
- trading standards officer.

#### What qualifications do I need?

The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) professional qualifications in consumer affairs and trading standards are at four levels: foundation, module, diploma and higher diploma. You can combine study with paid employment and work up through the qualifications, or you can study for a TSI accredited degree and start professional qualifications at a higher level.

#### What skills do I need?

You need to be:

- able to communicate well with different people,
- good at problem solving and investigating,
- able to work on your own initiative,
- persuasive and good at negotiating,
- calm under pressure,
- practical, with a good knowledge of science subjects.

#### How much would I get paid?

Salaries vary around the country, but trading standards professionals may earn £20-30,000 per year.

#### Are there any other benefits?

Working for a local council can offer a lot of additional benefits, not least, the great feeling of being able to help people in your own community and do something worthwhile and rewarding.

Local councils may also offer some or all of the following: generous annual leave, flexible working hours, pension scheme membership, reduced price public transport, gym membership, crèche facilities, employee guidance and support groups.

#### Contact

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