



Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Appointment of
Government Officer



Office of the Commissioner
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Dear Candidate,

Government Officer Role (based in South Georgia)

Thank you for your interest in joining the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) as a Government Officer.

The Government Officer role is pivotal to the operations and administration of this United Kingdom Overseas Territory. Accordingly, we are seeking applications from proactive and collaborative individuals who demonstrate exceptional interpersonal skills and a strong desire to work across all weather conditions, both on land and at sea.

All GSGSSI personnel serve as representatives of the Government and as such must demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, leadership and accuracy to ensure that all operations are delivered securely and sustainably.

Whilst the role includes a core set of defined duties, the day-to-day tasks vary significantly, requiring a high degree of operational flexibility. This is an exciting time to join GSGSSI as we deliver on key strategic goals that place us at the forefront of balancing environmental protection and sustainable use. Priority will be given to those candidates with previous fisheries management and/or compliance experience.



About the terms

This is a 40-month contract based at King Edward Point with approximately 6 months on South Georgia and 3 months of paid leave, although the exact rotations can alter slightly. The role requires a flexible approach to work and as such there are no normal working hours, as Harbour Operations can occur at any time. There may be the opportunity to extend employment at the end of the contract with mutual agreement.

Where will you work and the team

The Government's main office is located in Stanley, Falkland Islands. The administrative centre at King Edward Point is staffed by two to three government officers at a time, alongside a team from the British Antarctic Survey that operates the King Edward Point research station on the Government's behalf. The science conducted supports the Government's world-class conservation, environmental management, and sustainable fisheries objectives.

King Edward Point is situated in the midst of South Georgia wildlife. Elephant seals and fur seals give birth on the beaches outside the houses, and king penguins often wander up the high street. During breaks between visiting vessels and during field work days there are plenty of opportunities to get out wildlife watching, hiking and cross country running.

There is always a wide diversity of people living at King Edward Point, with up to 40 people on station during the height of summer. Recreational activities are varied, and their popularity depends on those on station, but people often enjoy board games, trekking, photography, film nights, and crafting – those who do not have a crafting hobby are often excited to learn a new skill. There are plenty of books and board games on station.

The journey to South Georgia will take place aboard the GSGSSI Patrol Vessel. The Government Officers live in comfortable accommodation and share other facilities with the British Antarctic Survey team. The aim is that there are two government representatives on South Georgia at any given time. Travel, accommodation and provisions are covered by GSGSSI for all periods on South Georgia. Although the population on South Georgia is small, there is a strong team spirit and wide array of vibrant social activities.





Who can apply

Applications are open to individuals with a British passport. Please be aware that the successful candidate will need to pass a British Antarctic Survey Medical Unit medical prior to contracts being signed to confirm fitness for the role. The Government will meet the costs of this medical.

Best wishes,
Colin Armstrong MBE
Deputy Commissioner

Job Description

- Support the safe, efficient and lawful operation of the Territory, ensuring compliance with Government policies, permits and regulations.
- Manage vessel arrivals and visitor activities, including briefings, biosecurity checks, customs and immigration functions, and fee administration.
- Help protect South Georgia's globally important environment through biosecurity, wildlife protection, environmental monitoring and fisheries compliance activities.
- Support the management and oversight of licensed fisheries, including inspections, reporting and liaison with fishing vessels and patrol assets.
- Build positive relationships with visitors, stakeholders and partners, promoting the work and objectives of GSGSSI.
- Maintain accurate records, prepare reports and provide updates to Government colleagues and partners.
- Respond to incidents and emergencies, including participation in the duty officer rota and wider operational support activities.
- Contribute to the day-to-day administration of the Territory, undertaking a wide range of operational, regulatory and community responsibilities as required.



Person Specification

The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all suitably experienced applicants. There is a need to pass a medical prior to travel being permitted to South Georgia and any role being offered is dependent on satisfactory medical results. We seek to promote a culture of respect, fairness, professional growth and development, commitment and work-life balance within the workplace.

Essential Skills and Experience

- Responsible, self-motivated with an ability to work independently and as part of a small team;
- Ability to thrive in a highly varied role encompassing administration, operational support, stakeholder engagement and field-based duties;
- Proven ability to live and work effectively within a small, remote environment;
- Demonstrated resilience, adaptability and composure when working in challenging and rapidly changing circumstances;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to engage positively with visitors, vessel operators, scientists and colleagues;
- A practical, hands-on approach combined with strong organisational and administrative capability.



Desirable Skills and Experience

Previous fisheries management/compliance is highly desirable. We welcome applications from candidates outside the sector who possess strong transferable skills.

- Knowledge of environmental and/or tourism management, conservation or biosecurity principles
- Experience managing incidents, emergencies or operational issues requiring calm decision making under pressure
- Current STCW, Sea Survival or other relevant operational qualifications



Acronyms

GSGSSI – Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

SGSSI – South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

DOFE – Director of Fisheries and Environment

HoE – Head of Environment

VM – Visitor Manager

UK OT – UK overseas territory

IAATO – International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators

SGHT - South Georgia Heritage Trust

BAS – British Antarctic Survey

FCDO – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

CCAMLR – Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

FPV – Fisheries Patrol Vessel

Terms of Employment

Job title: Government Officer

Salary: £37,000 plus all accommodation and subsistence included when deployed, plus travel between the UK and South Georgia.

Contract: 40 months

How to Apply

For more information, please contact Bernice Hewitt, Operations Manager on recruitment@gov.gs

Applications should be submitted in the form of your CV and a cover letter.

Closing date: 6th November 2026

Interview: Week commencing 16th November 2026