Stakeholder Engagement & Public Consultation Consultant

Location: Nationwide with travel as required (we offer Hybrid working supported by a Smart Working Policy)

Full Time or Part Time: Full Time

Directorate: Planning & Engagement

Salary: Negotiable DOE

**Company Overview:**

Ardent is the UK’s leading provider of land, consent management, and stakeholder engagement services, supporting major infrastructure and regeneration projects from concept to delivery. With a presence across the UK and Ireland, our dynamic and fast-growing company has supported over 90 Development Consent Orders (DCOs), Transport and Works Act Orders (TWAOs), and their equivalents in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland.

Established in 1992, Ardent has become a trusted partner for clients in transport, renewables, utilities, and regeneration sectors. We are passionate about delivering life-improving change for communities and future generations, playing a key role in facilitating and delivering the UK and Ireland’s net zero agenda, improving connectivity, enabling the repurposing of high streets and town centres, and delivering new homes for those who need them most.

Our in-house digital solutions team, composed of software developers and AI engineers, and our proprietary platform, Atlas Engage, set us apart in the industry by providing cutting-edge tools and applications that enhance the stakeholder engagement process. We pride ourselves on our community-first approach, ensuring that our projects reflect the needs and voices of all stakeholders, particularly those from seldom-heard groups.

**Role Overview:**

As a Stakeholder Engagement & Public Consultation Consultant at Ardent, you will play a vital role in supporting the successful delivery of stakeholder engagement strategies for major infrastructure projects across the UK and Ireland. This position is ideal for someone who passionate about making a positive impact through meaningful stakeholder engagement, particularly in the renewables and utilities sectors, which are rapidly expanding within our business.

In this role, you will be responsible for managing specific components of engagement and consultation processes, working closely with senior team members to ensure that projects align with the needs of clients and the communities they affect. You will contribute to the development and execution of communication strategies, coordinate project resources, and play an active role in client interactions.

You will also have the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge across a range of sectors, including renewables, transport, utilities, and regeneration, while working within a dynamic and supportive team environment. By leveraging Ardent's proprietary digital tools, such as the Atlas Engage platform, you will help enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our engagement efforts.

This role offers a unique opportunity for growth and development, providing a strong foundation for building a career in stakeholder engagement and public consultation. As part of our Planning and Engagement Directorate, you will contribute to projects that are driving the UK and Ireland's transition to a sustainable future, helping to ensure that stakeholder voices are heard and integrated into the decision-making process.

**The candidate will be expected to fulfill the following responsibilities**

* Support in Engagement Strategy Development: Assist in the development and implementation of stakeholder engagement and public consultation strategies for a variety of infrastructure projects, with a particular focus on the renewables and utilities sectors. Work closely with senior consultants to ensure that strategies are aligned with project objectives and stakeholder needs.
* Coordination of Consultation Activities: Coordinate the logistics of public consultations, including organising events, managing communications, and ensuring that all materials are prepared and distributed in a timely manner. This includes engaging with communities, local authorities, and other key stakeholders to gather feedback and insights.
* Client and Stakeholder Interaction: Serve as a key point of contact for clients and stakeholders on specific project tasks. Build and maintain strong relationships by understanding their objectives, challenges, and expectations. Ensure that all communications are clear, professional, and aligned with project goals.
* Data Collection and Analysis: Assist in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of stakeholder feedback gathered through consultations, surveys, and other engagement activities. Contribute to the preparation of consultation reports, ensuring that all relevant stakeholder input is accurately represented and informs project decision-making.
* Project Management Support: Manage specific components of stakeholder engagement projects, ensuring that tasks are completed on time, within budget, and to the required quality standards. Apply problem-solving skills to address challenges as they arise and support the overall success of the project.
* Digital Solutions Utilisation: Utilise Ardent's digital tools, such as the Atlas Engage platform, to streamline engagement activities, manage stakeholder data, and ensure that all project information is accurately recorded and easily accessible. Assist in integrating innovative digital practices into the stakeholder engagement process.
* Continuous Learning and Development: Actively seek opportunities to develop your knowledge and skills in stakeholder engagement, public consultation, and the infrastructure sectors. Apply feedback from senior team members to improve your performance and contribute to the continuous improvement of Ardent’s engagement services.
* Health, Safety, and Compliance: Participate in ensuring that all engagement activities are conducted in accordance with health and safety regulations. Support the preparation of risk assessments and promote a safe and responsible working environment during all consultation activities.
* Contribution to Work Winning: Assist in the preparation of bids and proposals for new projects by providing input based on your experience and insights from previous consultations. Help identify opportunities to expand existing client relationships and contribute to the growth of Ardent’s engagement services.

**Technical Knowledge, Skills & Experience Required:**

* Sector Experience: Some experience in stakeholder engagement and public consultation, ideally within the renewables, utilities, or infrastructure sectors. An understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities within these sectors is highly desirable.
* Communication Skills: Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, including community groups, local authorities, and clients. Experience in drafting reports and preparing consultation materials is advantageous.
* Project Management: Basic project management skills, including the ability to manage your time effectively, prioritise tasks, and ensure that project components are delivered on schedule. Familiarity with coordinating small-scale projects or project elements is beneficial.
* Analytical Skills: Strong analytical skills, with the ability to collect, interpret, and present data from stakeholder consultations. Experience in using feedback to inform project decisions and reporting is preferred.
* Digital Literacy: Proficiency in using digital tools and platforms to manage stakeholder data and engagement activities. Familiarity with software applications, such as Ardent’s Atlas Engage platform, or similar stakeholder management systems, is a plus.
* Problem-Solving: Demonstrated ability to think critically and solve problems independently, particularly when addressing challenges that arise during stakeholder engagement processes.
* Teamwork and Collaboration: Ability to work effectively as part of a team, contributing to a positive and collaborative working environment. Experience in supporting senior colleagues and mentoring less experienced team members is desirable.
* Continuous Improvement: A proactive attitude towards learning and development, with a commitment to continuously improving your own skills and the effectiveness of engagement processes.
* Health and Safety Awareness: Awareness of health and safety regulations and practices, particularly in the context of public consultations and stakeholder engagement activities. Willingness to participate in health and safety training and contribute to maintaining a safe working environment.
* Client Focus: An understanding of client needs and the ability to build and maintain strong client relationships. Experience in managing client communications and ensuring client satisfaction is beneficial.

**Why This Role?**

As a Stakeholder Engagement & Public Consultation Consultant at Ardent, you will be at the heart of impactful projects that are shaping the future of the UK and Ireland’s infrastructure. This role offers you the chance to work closely with communities, stakeholders, and clients on projects that make a real difference, particularly in the rapidly growing renewables and utilities sectors. You’ll be part of a dynamic team that values collaboration, innovation, and continuous learning, providing you with the perfect environment to develop your career in stakeholder engagement.

This role is ideal for an early-career professional who is eager to gain hands-on experience, contribute to meaningful projects, and build a strong foundation in the infrastructure and renewables sectors. With Ardent’s commitment to supporting your professional growth, you’ll have the opportunity to expand your skills, take on new challenges, and play a key role in the success of high-profile projects across the UK and Ireland.

**Why Now?**

Ardent is a fast-growing company at a pivotal point in its journey, with an increasing portfolio of projects across the renewables, utilities, transport, and regeneration sectors. There has never been a more exciting time to join our team. As we continue to expand our operations, we are looking for passionate and driven individuals who are ready to grow with us.

The transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future is accelerating, and our projects are at the forefront of this change. By joining Ardent now, you’ll be contributing to the delivery of projects that are essential to achieving the UK and Ireland’s Net Zero goals. This is your opportunity to be part of a forward-thinking company that is leading the way in stakeholder engagement and public consultation, making a tangible impact on the communities we serve and the environment we live in.

**Behavioural Skills Required (Based on our Values) :**

* **Thirst for Knowledge** *(We embrace opportunities to learn and improve for personal and professional growth) -* Demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of yourself, and your people, for your role in a growth company and future role. Coach and mentor others (or actively engage with your Coach) to have a deep understanding of their knowledge and experience. Actively supporting with areas of development and career goals, extending beyond a technical remit and actively developing your business knowledge on an on-going basis.
* **Own It** *(We do what we say we will. We own our individual actions, are accountable for them and take pride in adding value)* - Act like it matters, take pride and caring about the outcome of people in your team, or who you work with, and your clients objectives.
* **Be the Difference** *(Focus energy to make things happen. Be beyond process. Stand up, Stand out)* - Be confident in your decisions and implementing them, taking into account the wider structure and *objectives of the business, working with or alongside peers across the business. Be more than any other competent person in your role.*
* **Enjoy the Journey** *(Have fun, be engaged and be proud to be Ardent) -* Translatinggoals and visions of the business into meaningful objectives for your team in a positive and engaging manner (delivering excellence in your own objectives), demonstrating your commitment to Ardent and the wellbeing and development of your team and colleagues. Understand the needs of your people and colleagues to have, purpose/fulfilment, personal growth, engagement, team culture and fair pay.
* **Adapt** *(We drive change and innovation to deliver growth and new opportunities in an ever-changing world)* - As a growth company Ardent is all about change. You must be a change maker. Demonstrate ability to drive and/or implement change to enable Ardent to continue to excel. Listen to your team and people you work with to actively search for opportunities to create change. Exhibit a resilient attitude, communicate key information in a clear and engaging way to influence others**.**

*Ardent is an equal opportunities employer that is committed to inclusion and diversity. We positively encourage applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of race, colour, religion or belief, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability status or other legally protected characteristics.*

With people at the core of our business, we offer employees an unrivalled career opportunity rather than simply a job. In a fast growing organisation, we train, develop and support our staff to grow and achieve their career goals. This is supported by a number of initiatives to look after the wellbeing of our employees whilst allowing employees to work flexibility and maintain a positive work life balance.

We offer an attractive benefits package to include :-

* Hybrid working
* Smart Working Policy
* Medical health plan
* Career progression
* Coaching
* Cycle to Work
* Electric Car Scheme
* Enhanced maternity and paternity pay

For more information, please see our services page on our website at [www.ardent-management.com](http://www.ardent-management.com)

Interested? Get in touch!

Should you be interested in hearing more about the position or wish to send your cv, please email [people@ardent-management.com](mailto:people@ardent-management.com) or contact Stuart Thomas [stuartthomas@ardent-management.com](mailto:stuartthomas@ardent-management.com)