

Alan Adair IEng MIWater

My name is Alan Adair and I am a Civil Engineer, Field Manager, for Northern Ireland Water based in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. I manage a team of engineers in various water industry projects including, mechanical, civil, electrical engineering, leakage control, planning applications and technical services, health and safety and managing telemetry.

I have seven years experience in the design office, with responsibilities for surveying, designing and the supervision of water mains, sewers, pumping stations and small STWs. I was also responsible for preparing specifications and bills of quantities, providing technical backup to sub-divisions, particularly in the area of leakage management and acting as liaison officer with consultants who were involved in similar work. During this time, I devised a computer-generated leakage monitoring spreadsheet, which was eventually adapted by ISU Computer Branch as a Water Service standard.

One particular project I am proud of was developing, in conjunction with the Information Systems Development Unit, a divisional IT strategy within the Water Service computer network. This involved me co-ordinating the divisional IT steering group, acting as a link between it and the PC User Group, of which I was a member and managing the PC installation.

For me, professional registration as an Incorporated Engineer is important. I gained IEng registration in 1984 through the Institute of Water. I have always believed that it is essential that skilled workers have the appropriate recognition they deserve, and one way of achieving this is to gain registration with the Engineering Council. Whether it is EngTech, IEng or CEng, each stage is a crucial cog in the engineering wheel and individuals should be recognised as being professionally qualified at each level throughout their career.

My advice, therefore, for any potential registrant, especially those who meet the criteria for IEng, is to apply for registration. The more engineers who gain registration, the more employers will become aware of these very important professional qualifications. This recognition can only be good for the industry and the country. The UK is facing serious commercial and engineering challenges from the Far East, India and China. As a society, we must cast off the (sometimes) negative preconceptions of engineers and give them the incentives, both in terms of economical and professional status, to meet these increasing challenges.

Alan Adair IEng MIWater
Registered in 1984



‘I have always believed that it is essential that skilled workers have the appropriate recognition they deserve, and one way of achieving this is to gain registration with the Engineering Council.’