

SDLP Policy and Campaigns Manager

Job Role: Policy and Campaigns Manager

Contract: Full-time but open to considering a job-share arrangement and welcome applications from candidates who may wish to work part-time as part of such an arrangement.

Salary: £36,000–£40,000, depending on experience

Location: Parliament Buildings / Travel as required / Remote

About the Role

The SDLP is at an exciting time in its development. Working with Party leader Claire Hanna MP and Leader of the Opposition in the NI Assembly, Matthew O'Toole MLA, we are seeking to appoint a Policy and Campaigns Manager to drive forward the party's ideas and messages.

This is a fast-paced environment requiring excellent judgement, professionalism, and the ability to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. You will be responsible for developing policy positions for the party as well as creating campaigns that communicate these ideas beyond the floor of the NI Assembly.

Person Specification

Essential Shortlisting Criteria

- A university-level degree or equivalent third-level qualification.
- Significant experience (at least three of the last five years) in policy, campaigning, or political advice.
- A proven track record of developing policy positions and providing advice/recommendations to senior leaders.
- Experience organising policy development events such as conferences, roundtables, panel discussions, and report launches.
- Experience delivering effective campaigns, including grassroots engagement.
- Experience managing external stakeholders to advance organisational mission and objectives, including media, community and voluntary organisations, and business representative groups.
- Knowledge and experience of the policymaking and legislative processes of the Northern Ireland Assembly, including the preparation of Assembly motions and questions.

Desirable

- Knowledge and understanding of the policymaking and legislative processes of the Westminster Parliament and local councils.
- Experience supporting communications teams in developing policy-based messaging.
- Experience delivering policy or politically focused campaigns.
- Experience managing or coordinating staff or volunteers.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Lead the development and production of SDLP policy positions.
- Establish and develop appropriate strategies and processes for policy development, including engagement with party structures and members.

- Lead the development and production of the SDLP manifesto.
- Provide political advice to MLAs and Leader of the Opposition.
- Develop and implement effective campaigns.
- Develop motions for Opposition Days and ensure effective preparation for Assembly debates.
- Coordinate the work of policy staff in constituency offices.
- Analyse, evaluate and interpret data to ensure elected representatives are accurately informed on key issues.
- Conduct policy horizon scanning: anticipate advice or action that may be required, proactively identify problems, and propose solutions.
- Lead on project work as required.

How to Apply

Applicants must complete the SDLP Application Form (CVs will not be accepted).

The form can be requested from and submitted to:

 headquarters@sdlp.ie

Please contact SDLP Headquarters should you have any additional questions about the role on 028 9024 7700.

Closing Date

Monday 29th September 2025, 12.00pm

Late applications will not be considered.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The SDLP is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from all sections of the community and particularly encourage applications from under-represented groups. Selection will be made on the basis of merit.