

# CIWM Professional Interview Workshop

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Sarah Atkinson, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Professional interviews from the  
candidate's perspective

# Applying for Chartered membership

- Working in waste services team of local authority for 7 years
- Graduate member for four years
- Once I decided it was time to apply
  - Attended interview workshop in March 2016
  - Sat interview in June 2016

# Benefits of Chartered membership

- Shows commitment to the industry and professionalism
- Shows a commitment to your own CPD
- Attending regional centre events
- Being part of the New Member Network
- Sharing best practice with other members in the region

# Preparing for the interview

- Three aspects to prepare for:
  - Presentation and questions
  - Wider waste knowledge questions
  - CIWM and career related questions
- Know the marking criteria
- Know the interviewers

# Preparing for the presentation

- How I chose my topic
  - I could demonstrate my involvement and contribution
  - Felt it showcased the skills required
    - Industry Knowledge
    - Technical competence
    - Management skills
    - Ability to Organise
    - Independence
  - I was able to highlight successes and challenges for discussion
  - I was comfortable explaining why I did things a certain way

# The presentation

- I took hard copy of the slides for each interviewer
- Practiced timings beforehand, so I knew I could complete it in the 10 minutes
- Didn't just read the slides – engaged with the interviewers throughout
- Ready for questions

# Preparing for the wider waste knowledge questions

- You must show that you have **“acquired an understanding of the industry beyond your own area of expertise.”**
- I prepared by:
  - Reading the last 6 months of CIWM journals, and making notes on any articles covering key ‘hot topics’
  - Familiarised myself with the potential question topics on the CIWM website and made sure I filled in any gaps
  - Regularly read News Online and Letsrecycle
  - Attended the interview workshop
  - Attended regional CIWM meetings and NMN national event
  - Discussions with another member of my team going for chartered membership



# Wider knowledge questions

- Felt like a structured conversation rather than an interview
- Answers led to other questions
- Wider waste topics covered
  - ‘Brexit’
  - Waste policy and strategy in the UK
  - Circular economy
  - Landfill and Energy from waste
  - Environmental permitting
- CIWM and career specific questions
  - Why do you want to be a chartered waste manager?
  - How have you been involved in CIWM?
  - How do you see your career developing?



# My advice...

- If you meet the criteria, and are able to demonstrate your skills and experience then go for it.
- Use the information available on the CIWM website
- Prepare well
- Show your enthusiasm
- Don't be afraid to give opinions
- Relax!