* How long have you worked at Health and Safety Executive?

I’ve worked at the HSE for just over 5 years

* What attracted you to HSE?

HSE presented a new challenge, and I jumped at the opportunity to be in a position where I can contribute to helping protect people at work and the environment. I also wanted to work at a place where I felt valued, and where I could continue develop myself further. I like the flexibility I have within my working day, this along with hybrid working, means I have a great work life balance.

* What does a typical day at work look like for you?

Honestly, there are no typical days. The work of a PEO is very varied. Some days are spent carrying out site visits in different locations across the UK, ensuring the dutyholdes are complying with their requirements under plant protection product legislation. Other days can be spent carrying out office-based work, such as undertaking online investigations into sales of unauthorised plant protection products. Some of my time is used to aid new starters in understanding their roles and helping them to develop their skills.

* Can you give an example of a recent project you have been involved with at work?

Recently I visited a dutyholder, who had no idea about the risks associated with storing hazardous chemicals and, were therefore, breaching several regulations relating to plant protection products legislation. Upon further inspection there were other general health and safety issues identified, and concerns with the sites approach to fire safety. As a result, I took enforcement action to ensure they implemented necessary measures to achieve compliance in a timely manner. I worked in conjunction with other enforcing authorities to ensure that the company is brought back into compliance with wider health and safety regulations.

* What do you enjoy most about your role?

I enjoy the opportunity to get out of the office and visit dutyholder sites, identifying breaches of plant protection product legislation and helping them get back into compliance. I love getting up in the morning knowing that I’m working in a positive role that educates dutyholders to contribute to safer working practices when using plant protection products and helps to protect the environment. I enjoy the investigative and problem-solving aspect of this role, and being able to interact with people from all walks of life.

* What has been your greatest achievement so far working at HSE?

I took enforcement action against a company to ensure that in the event of a large loss of containment (i.e. a fire), the release of PPPs into and damaging the environment would be prevented. I explained to them the importance of improving their storage arrangements and took appropriate enforcement action to ensure they became compliant in a reasonable time frame. There were also some general health and safety issues, and I liaised with a local inspection team so these could be followed up.

* Are you involved with any networks within the workplace?

No, but I know there are multiple different networks within HSE that colleagues can get involved in, these include: EQUAL for staff with long-term health conditions and disabilities; MAGNET which is a diversity network for colleagues from BAME backgrounds; and the LGBT+ network which is an inclusive network.