



Jean Hobbs

Project Manager for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project

Jean Hobbs is Project Manager for the upgrade of Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is one of Ireland's largest engineering projects. She says, "Irish Water is committed to gender equality, which is why we want to inspire girls and young women to explore engineering career paths particularly within the Water sector. It is fantastic that here in Irish Water, we have women in prominent leadership positions right across the business.

Jean has followed in her father's footsteps, who inspired her to become an engineer. She first considered becoming an engineer when she was a child, spending time with her father on the water in Dublin Bay. Speaking about her father, Jean said, "My dad was a Civil Engineer, who worked primarily on water and drainage projects, so I suppose I grew up hearing about water and wastewater infrastructure a lot. When I was about 9 years old I remember my father pointing out different sewage outfall locations in Dublin Bay at the time, and it struck me how important a role Engineers play in safeguarding our environment. It was then that I started considering the idea that I wanted to be an Engineer."

Speaking about her career that so far spans over 30 years, Jean said, "My first job as a graduate Engineer was to survey foul manholes in Dublin. Over the course of 2 years I climbed into about 3,000 manholes to survey the pipes! I worked as an

engineer with a consultancy for 25 years and in that time I had the good fortune of working with amazing mentors such as Jerry Grant, former Managing Director of Irish Water. I worked on a number of big motorway projects such as M1, Dunleer to Dundalk Motorway and the M50, South Eastern Motorway, on drainage projects such as the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study and on flooding studies on both the River Tolka and River Dodder. I am currently the Project Manager for the upgrade of Ringsend wastewater treatment plant for Irish Water, an innovative and strategically important project.”

Jean’s advice for girls leaving school: “If you enjoy maths and science like I did, it would be fair to say you would have a natural capacity for it. If you are interested in big infrastructural projects, and how things work, you will really enjoy it. It also provides an excellent basis for careers in business, management and industry, so it is a very practical and flexible qualification.”