

# A DAY IN THE LIFE

Oonagh  
McKenna

Community  
Relations Assistant



**I have been working with Dalradian Gold as Community Relations Assistant since April 2015. Mostly it involves liaising with stakeholders at a range of different levels, from landowners to businesses, schools, clubs, and members of the public. So, the varied nature of my role and the opportunity to meet with people for a huge number of reasons daily keeps my job interesting and fresh.**

I'd have to say, I'm happiest out on the road working in the local community. Having lived very close to the current exploration site I've had personal experience of Dalradian being a good neighbour.

I have worked for most of my life in customer facing roles both in the service and tourism sectors. More recently I worked as a biodiversity guide as I have a keen interest in native flora and fauna. I have seen many advances in my locality in that time, I can remember when houses in my area didn't have electricity,

running water or even landline telephones, resulting in huge depopulation.

Like the rest of the people working for Dalradian I hope that if our project is granted planning approval it will help to secure the future of the hard working communities that live in west Tyrone. An underground mine that will provide 350 direct jobs and around twice that figure in indirect jobs would be fantastic for the area.

My mix of experience and skills fits perfectly with my current role. In liaising with stakeholders or working with schools, I can illustrate that mining and biodiversity will continue to sit happily side by side or be mutually beneficial such as in the Freshwater Pearl Mussel protection programme. Dalradian has helped protect the Freshwater Pearl Mussel by assisting land owners fence the land along the rivers in

which this endangered species live.

Of course that sort of activity fits well into my personal interests and my background knowledge. I studied part time at South West College in Omagh to obtain a Foundation Degree in Land Use and Rural Sustainability and so was well placed to apply for my current position.

Dalradian is a great company to work for, professional, considerate, keen to look after employees and encourage them to develop new skills.

Brought up on a farm, and still part-time farming, I am acutely aware of the increased daily pressures facing the upland farming community. Dalradian will use local resources to provide employment for local people, including farmers, boosting the local economy, allowing people to work near home.

Dalradian, a company deeply committed to the Health and Safety of all employees and visitors, is already promoting new opportunities for employment in the area and I trust are best placed to carry this project forward in a safe and environmentally friendly manner for the benefit of the whole community.

I am proud to have played a part in the development of our planning application, submitted in November 2017, the culmination of many years hard work over a vast range of disciplines. It is the largest application ever presented to the Department for Infrastructure. If passed it will provide a huge financial injection to the local area, not only in terms of direct employees across a wide range of skills, but also in creating jobs for a range of businesses and suppliers in the west Tyrone area.

**DALRADIAN**  
GOLD

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Jobs in Tyrone**