

Our public services are the most efficient way to deliver the things we need. You use public services every day and you get enormous value for what you pay. Here's how...



7am: You make coffee with the safe drinking water provided and monitored for safety by Scottish Water. You have a shower and use the toilet that flushes into the public sewerage system safe in the knowledge that it's not flowing down the street spreading cholera and other diseases.



The electricity and gas that you use may now be provided by the private sector but OFGEM regulates the market and a range of health and safety laws protect you from being electrocuted or blown up.

Water for life: publicly owned and regulated

Teaching and caring: schools nurture your children

8.30am: Walk your children to their publicly funded school, and leave them in the care of school staff.



Rules are in place for safety and to ensure that what the pupils learn is appropriate and useful. Teachers follow guidelines which protect your child from being taught nonsense, and they must have a government-sanctioned qualification.



Morning at work: You are protected by a range of laws governing your health and safety, the hours you can be forced to work and your right to be paid a minimum wage. You are protected from discrimination and bullying and violence particularly on the grounds of race, gender, age and sexual orientation.



Green, clean: saving the planet and keeping you safe

11am: While you work, the public sector refuse collectors take away your domestic rubbish and recycling. This protects you and your family from vermin and disease. Recycling helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



1pm Lunch break: You buy a sandwich, soup and a drink. They're safe to eat as environmental health officers ensure that shops prepare and store the food in a hygienic manner. Legislation covers the farmers and the companies which process ingredients of your food to ensure your safety.



Environmental health: making sure your food is safe to eat

a million voices for change



Afternoon at work: Once you have all your mail safely posted using the public Royal Mail service, you take advantage of flexible working to leave a bit early. You use the public transport system to get from work to your local shopping centre, where you have a health appointment, and you can also pick up a few things for dinner.

4.30pm After shopping you call in to the NHS mobile clinic in the supermarket car park. There you have a mammogram as part of the NHS programme to support early detection and treatment of cancers. Like all screening programmes, not only does this increase your chances of surviving any illness that is detected, it saves money as prevention is much cheaper than cure.



Public works: public services provide quality of life for all of us, every day

7pm: Take the kids to the park. Your children play and you can relax and enjoy a healthy walk in the fresh air.



The park is full of people having fun and taking exercise. Council gardeners ensure it looks great. The wardens fine those who litter or don't clean up after their dogs.



Your partner is swimming at the council's leisure centre in the park, where the children also do sports activities with the trained and accredited staff who work there.

Health for all: Our NHS works for everyone's wellbeing

8pm: Phone your sister in the USA to update her on your mother who had a heart attack a few days ago.

Your sister's American father-in-law was bankrupted by hospital bills after a heart attack, but your mum in the UK won't have to sell her home to pay for healthcare. The paramedics who saved her life, her angioplasty and hospital stay were all paid for by the NHS out of our taxes and national insurance payments.

Your mother is now back home, and has help from social services, so you can continue to work while supporting her in her recovery. She will soon start a free NHS exercise class, and is getting help to move to a healthier lifestyle. This will cut down her chances of another attack. As she is over sixty, she also gets all her medicines free.



Pic: Boris Heger/repondigital.co.uk

10pm: You sit down to watch the news. At the end of a busy day you are reminded of what life is like for others who do not have the public services and therefore the quality of life that we enjoy.