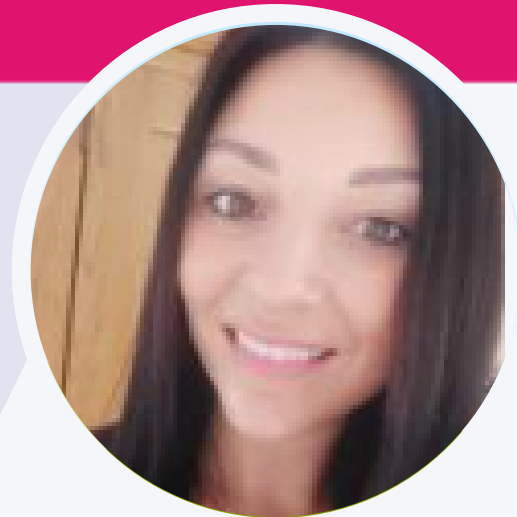


## Zoe Durkin

**"I never wake up dreading the day ahead, not even on cold, dark mornings, because I know I have a great team around me."**



Since joining AdviserPlus in 2011, Zoe has grown from a HR Administrator to a key member of the Payroll team. With a background in HR and a love for tackling challenges, Zoe plays a crucial role in ensuring that payroll runs smoothly for Empowering People Group and some of our clients. Here, she shares her journey and what she enjoys most about her role at AdviserPlus.

### Tell us a little about your background

When I left school, I studied Business Travel achieving a distinction. Alongside being a student I was a store supervisor within the Arcadia Group. I decided I wanted to do something more admin based as I enjoyed the office work in my retail role and so I started at a well-known high street Bank as a Business Administrator in mortgages. I took an interest in HR when the HR team visited us and decided I wanted to pursue this as a career path. I was offered the role of a Resourcing Operations Coordinator covering the North East of England. I then became a HR Assistant, still within Bank. I learnt so much from my time there and I just knew that I wanted my career to remain within HR.

### What is your job role?

I'm a Payroll Assistant within the Transactional Team providing beginning to end payroll services for Empowering People Group and some clients. Providing this payroll service means I must ensure that each employee is paid correctly and on time. I collate, calculate, and enter data in employee pay records and compile monthly, year to date, Tax & NI and pensions data each month for our clients.

Adhering to strict deadlines and legislations and balancing employee and employer figures is a huge responsibility within payroll. It can be challenging at times but I love a challenge!

### What is your biggest professional achievement?

When I was at college studying Business Travel. I was awarded an award at Leeds University for achieving the highest grade that anyone had got within 13 years.

### How has AdviserPlus helped with your professional development?

I joined AdviserPlus as a HR Administrator and after being in role for 6 years I was asked if I wanted to apply to be a Payroll Assistant. I initially said no, because I felt like I didn't have enough experience but my lovely colleagues told me otherwise. They gave me the courage (and the nudge) to apply and now here I am, over 5 years into the role, and I love it.

### How have you gained the knowledge for your role?

My manager and colleagues have provided me with the knowledge and the skills I have to now successfully run a payroll from beginning to end. I was, and still am encouraged by my manager to attend payroll webinars to build my knowledge, which helps build my confidence in knowing what to do. It's really warming to know I can take time out to be able to attend these and focus on my development. I never thought when I started I would be in a payroll role and say, "I actually like working with numbers!"

### Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I used to be a cheerleader at Bradford City Football Club and completed the 3 Yorkshire Peaks in 10 hours and 10 minutes.

### If you weren't working at AdviserPlus what would you be doing?

Good question.... Probably something that involves me being outdoors! I love being outside in the fresh air, it's my happy place!

**To find out more about working at AdviserPlus visit our website [adviserplus.com/careers](https://adviserplus.com/careers)**

Visit [adviserplus.com](https://adviserplus.com) Call 0844 327 2293 Email [info@adviserplus.com](mailto:info@adviserplus.com)