

SCOTTISH POLICE  
**AUTHORITY**

Guidance note for applicants

**DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**The completed application form and short covering letter should be e-mailed to:**

**[ExecRecruitment@spa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ExecRecruitment@spa.pnn.police.uk)**

**Closing date: Monday 1 April 2019 at 1200 hours.**

## GUIDANCE FOR APPLICATION FORM

The application form has been designed to provide us with sufficient information to carry out an assessment of your suitability for the post of Deputy Chief Constable.

Before completing the application form, you are advised to read this guidance carefully.

- You are required to complete all sections of the application form.
- In addition to the application form, you are required to submit a short covering letter explaining why you are the right candidate for this role.
- It is imperative that you are open and honest with your answers. Evidence needs to be specific and focused on **your personal involvement/experience and actions**. The appropriateness of your application will be determined by the extent to which your evidence relates to the role and personal qualities.
- Please study the **Role Profile** and **Person Specification** within the information pack before completing the application form.
- You will be asked to provide evidence which demonstrates a high level of competence and effectiveness in line with the **6 key competencies** which are detailed in the **College of Policing Competency and Values Framework**. These are included as an appendix to this guidance for your ease of reference.
- You can draw on examples of evidence from your working life, through your participation with a private, public, voluntary or community organisation, and/or other areas of your personal life.
- There is a maximum word count of 400 words per competency.
- Providing tangible examples against each competency is an essential part of your application. If you do not provide evidence of all the essential competencies for the role, the selection panel will find it difficult to assess your application and may be unable to progress your application to the next stages of the selection process. **The selection panel will not make assumptions – for example from a job title – as to the skills, knowledge and experience you have gained.**
- You must disclose within your application any outstanding complaints, criminal convictions, investigations or disciplinary proceedings being carried out in relation to your conduct. In addition, you are required to disclose previous disciplinary offences that have not been expunged.
- You are required to provide two referees who will be contacted in the event that you are shortlisted for further assessment and interview.
- It is your responsibility to ensure the form is returned by the closing date.

## **APPENDIX A – Six key competencies from the College of Policing Competency and Values Framework**

How we conduct ourselves in our service and the values that underpin our behaviour are a key part of our thought processes and relationships.

Empathy means listening to the public, colleagues and partners, responding directly and quickly, and having a genuine interest in ourselves and others. We are always focused on doing our best for the public and our customers.

By understanding our thoughts and the values behind our behaviour, we can maintain a professional and resolute stance, demonstrate accountability and stand by the police service's established values to maintain the service's professional legitimacy.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate and evidence a high level of competence and effectiveness in the following areas:

### **1. We are emotionally aware**

We make the effort to understand ourselves, our colleagues and all those we serve. We genuinely engage with and listen to others, making efforts to understand needs, perspectives and concerns. We use these insights to inform our actions and decisions.

We are able to control our emotions in stressful situations, understanding our own motivations and the underlying reasons for our behaviour. This is all underpinned by our ability to anticipate and understand how other people may feel. We look after our own wellbeing and that of others.

Adopting emotionally intelligent behaviours also means valuing diversity and difference in approaches to work, in thinking, and in people's backgrounds.

We are culturally sensitive and seek to understand different perspectives, acting with sensitivity, compassion and warmth. We always try to understand the thoughts, feelings and concerns of those we meet.

**Why is it important?** The way in which we conduct ourselves is just as important as what we do. Communicating and acting politely, respectfully and with compassion helps to drive and maintain public trust.

Empathy is particularly important, especially if we are to engage and involve some of the most vulnerable individuals we encounter who may not be able to fully express or articulate their thoughts or feelings.

Understanding ourselves means that we are able to improve our own resilience and therefore cope effectively during challenging and emotionally charged situations.

## 2. We take ownership

We take personal responsibility for our roles and accountabilities but we do not let this hold us back from being effective or taking appropriate risks.

We make decisions at appropriate levels and in appropriate areas, having a clear rationale (for example, use of decision-making models) and accepting responsibility for our decisions. We seek feedback, learn from our mistakes and reflect to improve and amend our future practice.

Demonstrating pride in our work is important to us. Our selflessness means that we also seek to help solve issues or problems, which may be internal or external to our own teams. We recognise where limitations in our own knowledge and experience may have an impact on our decision-making. We take responsibility for ensuring that support or development is sought to minimise any risks.

**Why is it important?** Not all decisions need senior leader approval, meaning that, where necessary, we can respond more swiftly to challenges while still ensuring we provide a full rationale for our response. Because we all face different kinds of challenges that are not always within our comfort zone, every one of us needs to feel confident and able to take responsibility.

These behaviours mean that we are empowered, effective and able to learn from our mistakes. Doing so allows us to own and see successes through our delivery of results, and not just whether a particular process has been followed.

## 3. We are collaborative

Ensuring and improving the safety and wellbeing of the public underpins all of our work. To achieve this most effectively, we need to look beyond our traditional boundaries to think about how to create the best possible outcomes.

We build genuine and long-lasting partnerships that focus on collective aims and not just on our own organisation. This goes beyond just working in teams and with colleagues we see daily. It includes building good relationships with other public and third sector providers, reaching out to private organisations and working with our communities and customers.

We aim to work effectively with colleagues and external partners, mutually sharing our skills, knowledge and insights with each other to achieve the best possible results for all and to reduce silo working. Our engagement seeks to not only deliver joint solutions but also to share appropriate information and negotiate new ways of providing services together. In all of our dealings with our partners, we make sure that they feel respected and valued.

**Why is it important?** Demands on the police come from an increasingly diverse set of sources and the need for services is not defined by organisational and geographical boundaries. We must work together regardless of differing cultures, priorities and needs.

This means that we need to influence and negotiate in order to achieve outcomes for everyone and not just focus efforts on our own immediate environment. Working to solve problems without help from our partners ignores the strengths that we can utilise together, but working jointly requires the ability to build relationships and break down barriers.

It is critical for us to build and retain our partners' trust and confidence in us and a key part of achieving this is through the way in which we work with others.

#### **4. We deliver, support and inspire**

We understand the vision for the organisation. We use our organisation's values in our day-to-day activities as a role model to provide inspiration and clarity to our colleagues and stakeholders. We work to create the right climate for people to get the job done to the best of their abilities, ensuring a culture of mutual respect and support.

We are dedicated to working in the public's best interests. We understand how we have an impact on the wider organisation and those around us and we help others to deliver their objectives effectively.

This behaviour is not restricted to those who are in formal or senior management positions. We all have a positive contribution to make by operating at our best, adapting how we work to take account of pressures and demands and helping others. We are focused on

helping our colleagues to improve and learn and are active in supporting them through activities such as coaching and mentoring.

**Why is it important?** To deliver the most effective service, we need to be clear on our goals and priorities, both for the police service and individually. We can all help to support and motivate each other to ensure that we are working as effectively as we can, enabling us and those around us to perform at our best. We should all act as organisational role models.

## **5. We analyse critically**

We analyse information, data, viewpoints and combine the best available evidence to understand the root causes of issues that arise in complex situations.

We draw on our experience, knowledge and wide sources of evidence to give us a greater view of what is happening underneath the surface. We combine insight and evidence-based approaches to help make decisions, accepting that we will not have all the answers but will always try to gather facts and robust information to be able to think tactically and strategically.

**Why is it important?** Critical thinking drives effective policing as we are faced with a wide variety of complex issues on a day-to-day basis. This means that we all need to be able to make sense of a complex environment, accept that ambiguity is part of contemporary working life and, therefore, be able to identify interrelationships between different factors.

If we are able to analyse the best available evidence and see what is happening underneath the surface, we will be better able to make confident and effective decisions and implement preventative solutions that deal with root causes.

## **6. We are innovative and open-minded**

We have an inquisitive and outward-looking nature, searching for new information to understand alternative sources of good practice and implement creative working methods. We are committed to reflecting on how we go about our roles, being flexible in our approach as required to ensure the best outcomes.

We seek to understand how well we are performing, both as individuals and as teams, and we seek to continuously improve. To do this, we look at relevant standards outside policing in other organisations and sectors.

Constantly changing and adapting is part of our role. We maintain an open mind to allow us to identify opportunities and to create innovative solutions.

**Why is it important?** New and emerging threats mean that our required response will not always be obvious. We will need to adopt new thinking and assumptions, be continually inquisitive and committed to continual improvement. The perpetual need to adapt, innovate and question our assumptions is at the heart of being able to serve and protect the public. It includes taking innovative, preventative action to reduce demand.

Being open-minded and reflective also allows us to tailor our approach to specific contexts and the communities we serve.