

Statement of Purpose

500/7801/X – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (QCF)

Despite decline in the number of people employed in the Public Sector, it is still a significant number, standing at 5.9 million at the beginning of 2012. Of those employed in the Public Sector, a significant number still work in the uniformed public services. In January 2012 those employed in the Armed forces stood at 173,020 which was 1.7% less than that required. In 2011 those employed in the Police stood at 139,000 of which 15,820 worked as Police Community Support Officers and 18,000 were Special Officers. 18,000 are employed in the Ambulance Service.

Demand for Public Services in the UK remains high, despite the increased involvement of the Private or Third sector in their delivery. Public Services, provided by Government such as law enforcement, health, defence and central and local Government remain in demand and whilst growth has slowed, will continue to have a vital role in the economic and social welfare of the nation.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (1080 GLH) is part of a larger suite of public Services qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the uniformed or non uniformed public services sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (1080 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to three A levels. It covers many aspects of the Public Services sector and has two pathways, in uniformed public services and non-uniformed public services.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (1080 GLH) which has been designed as a full two-year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a substantial common core of knowledge, including Government policies, leadership and teamwork, and citizenship and diversity as well as specific mandatory units related to the pathway, such as understanding discipline and fitness testing and training (Uniformed) and data interpretation and public service delivery through ICT (Non-Uniformed), and allowing them the maximum opportunity to study in more depth a full range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- international institutions and human rights
- discipline for the public services
- crime and its effects on society
- response to emergency incidents
- command and control
- security procedures
- behaviour in public services employment
- planning and management of major incidents.

It is mainly designed for those learners who know in which sector they would like to specialise. Learners can achieve breadth of study through the large core and extensive options, rather than by studying complementary qualifications alongside it. The qualification allows learners to develop the wide-ranging knowledge, understanding and skills required for direct progression into a broad range of roles within the industry they are going to be a part of. It also meets the needs of those who wish to progress first to further study.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council for the Public Services sector, Skills for Justice. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services. This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study. A significant proportion of recruitment in this sector is at graduate level.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond, fully meeting entry requirements for most courses. UCAS has reviewed the qualification to assess its value for access to higher education, and has allocated UCAS points. See details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>

In addition, a number of universities have individually confirmed that this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services fulfils their entry requirements, either on its own or when achieved alongside other qualifications.