

Statement of Purpose

500/7840/9 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate 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 Certificate in Public Services (180 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 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 Certificate in Public Services (180 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16–19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary common core of knowledge in the sector through mandatory content. This common core covers the content, such as Government policies and the public services, that is regarded as most important by employers. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a public services-related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as A level qualifications in Citizenship or Government and Politics. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Justice. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Public Services supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points – see details published on the Pearson website here:

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