

Statement of Purpose

500/7862/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services (360 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.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services (360 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to an A level, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications. Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including Government policies, and leadership and teamwork, required by the sector. It provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and mathematics, and/or at level 3, such as A levels in Law, Psychology, Government and Politics, Citizenship or Physical Education. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, including international institutions and human rights, and discipline for the public services.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Justice. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector, when taken alongside other qualifications appropriate for the desired course of study. 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.