

Statement of Purpose

600/3891/3 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit 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 90-credit Diploma in Public Services (540 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 90-credit Diploma (540 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to one and a half A levels. It has been designed as a one-year course, enabling learners to develop a common core of knowledge, including Government policies, leadership and teamwork, and citizenship and diversity, and allowing them the opportunity to study in more depth a 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.

This Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma could either be for learners starting their final year of education, for example after taking a level 2 qualification post-16 and wishing to follow a coherent one-year course at level 3, or for learners who wish to complete their course after one year and move into an apprenticeship or training with an employer. The qualification supports progression to a wide range of roles within the sector, usually when accompanied by other qualifications achieved at level 2 or level 3, such as AS levels in Law, Psychology, Physical Education or Sociology.

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 90-credit Diploma. 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 90-credit Diploma in Public Services also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector and beyond 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 90-credit Diploma in Public Services fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.