



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 10 Sept 2013

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME

500/7840/9 - Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Public Services (QCF)
500/7862/8 - Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services (QCF)
600/3891/3 - Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Public Services (QCF)
500/7867/7 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Public Services (QCF)
500/7801/X – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (QCF)

Dear Val.

I am delighted to be able to pen a few words in support of the Public Services qualification that I have had the pleasure of delivering activities to for over 10 years now. By way of background, as you know I both build and deliver the MOD Education Outreach Programme out of MOD Headquarters in Whitehall following the vision of our Permanent Secretary back in 2001 of providing support to inner city FE students on vocational courses. I was invited to build the Programme from almost nothing in early 2002 and since that time it has grown year on year to the position now where I deliver about 180 activities and support about 2,500 students each year targeting areas where diversity is in excess of 70%, with over 100 languages and nationalities present in the Colleges and frequently located in some of the most disadvantaged locations of the UK.

With regard to Public Services I am indebted to you as I learned much about the public services qualification and courses within it and it is this strand of the wider MOD Education Outreach Programme that has been one of the most successful. I now support many public services courses widely across the UK as discussions with College staff tell me that my workshops and activities fit so well into the both the students' curriculum and also their enrichment and employability skills developments. My talk on the MOD as a Government Department, its accountability to Parliament, its structure and key people, role of the Single Services and Civilians, current operations and civil contingencies in the UK, plus a mention of the MOD Police and Defence Fire Service is always received well and leads onto the students searching the news channels and Single Service web sites for examples to building into their assignments and also to consider for future careers. I also deliver workshops aiding students with their employability skills, frequently holding assessed mock interviews for fictional MOD jobs.

However probably the most popular and well received activity is the MOD International Crisis Scenario where students watch fictional news footage of an overseas civil war where UK nationals are trapped, diplomacy is failing, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating, and the Armed Forces may be needed to rescue both the UK Nationals and other vulnerable people. The students work in teams roleplaying the Prime Minister and other Ministers, build an action plan and then each team delivering a press conference with the others groups acting as members of the press and unpicking their various strategies. Accounts of this activity frequently make the college websites and other public services publications.

With these various activities and workshops I support public services students in Colleges ranging from the North-West through to the South Coast and am always very well received by both staff and students. I thoroughly enjoy working with public services students and I always tell them that they are very privileged to belong to a public services group because I do find that through the various opportunities these students can take part in, it builds their confidences, they become more worldly-wise, and they are more interesting to talk to and interview. For example I see public services students organising their Colleges Act of Remembrance, or being ambassadors and hosts in Colleges when VIP's visit and I frequently tell them that through these opportunities they are more employable in these difficult times as they have something a little different to talk about at interview. They stand out from students on other courses. When I host public services

students in London often in conjunction with a College organised trip to Parliament I discover that for many this can be their first time away from their local area and is a real life-changing 'wow' experience as the students say.

In sum, from working with public services staff and students for many years, I do think the public services qualifications at the different levels are tremendous areas of study, and I always commend these courses to students when I meet them at School careers evening, or interview sessions, and invite them to approach their local College to search the public services courses and opportunities available.

It has been a joy to support public services students over the years and to learn about their successes, and I stand by to support these students as part of the MOD Education Outreach Programme in the future.

With Best Wishes

Andy Gillman MBE