



# GUIDANCE NOTES

## HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION FORM

The application form plays an essential part in choosing the right person for a job. It is the information contained in your application and supporting statement that will decide whether or not you are invited for an interview or to the next stage in the selection process.

### 1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Where it says 'known as', this is for example if your official documentation shows you as 'Elizabeth', but you like to be known as 'Liz'.

#### WORKING IN THE UK

Under the Asylum & Immigration Act 1996, you will be required to provide proof of your eligibility to work in the UK.

We always need to see original documents. You will only be able to work for us once we are sure that you are eligible to work in the UK. If you are unsure about your status then you should contact the Home Office.

### 2 to 3. PRESENT OR MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT/ PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

We need you to provide us with your complete employment history, and any gaps in your employment history of more than one month should be explained – for example, carers and childcare responsibilities. \*We may ask for references to cover a full five-year history, which may include time spent at school/further education. For this five-year history please provide full postal addresses, including postcodes.

If you were employed by an agency during that time we need to know the agency details and the companies that you were placed at.

If you have been self-employed during the last five years, this means that we will need to see your tax returns for that period if you are successful.

If you have been claiming benefits in the past five years we may contact the Benefits Office to verify this if you are successful.

### 4. QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING/ PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Please give details of your education, qualifications and training, starting with secondary school.

#### PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

If we have requested that you have a professional qualification for this job (like QTS, NPQH, HLTA status), you will need to provide us with the relevant original certificates/registration documents.

### 5. TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED IF RELEVANT

Mention any short courses that you have attended, including dates, that are particularly relevant to the job you are applying for.

## 6. SUPPORTING STATEMENT & ACHIEVEMENTS

This section is your opportunity to tell us how you meet the criteria in the person specification. Take each relevant item and tell us about your skills, experience, knowledge and achievements.

Give specific examples of what you have done which prove your ability. If the person specification says, 'able to organise activities', you must do more than say, 'I am an organised person'. Give an example by describing something that you have done which tells us about the skills that you used and the steps that you took.

You can use examples from your home life, time spent in education, voluntary work or from your hobbies/interests if you do not have any formal experience.

## 7. REFEREES

\*You should provide the names and the addresses of two people who know you and who are able to comment on your suitability for the post. One of these should be your current or most recent employer. If you are a school or college leaver, give your head-teacher's or your tutor's name. It is always advisable to make sure that your referees know you have used their names before we contact them. The appropriateness and accuracy of references will be checked. You are also advised that any previous employer may be contacted to verify the details you provide.

## 8. REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ACT / DECLARATION

Please read this carefully before completion.

The Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), an Executive Agency of the Home Office, provides wider access to criminal record information through its Disclosure service. This service enables organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make safer recruitment decisions by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially that involving children or vulnerable adults. The DBS was established under Part V of the Police Act 1997 and was launched in March 2002.

Our borough's Criminal Record Bureau & Rehabilitation of Offenders Policy is available upon request.

You can get more information about the DBS at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

Please make sure that you read and sign/positively tick the declaration.

**All applicants are required to complete the Declaration of Criminal Record form even if you do not have a criminal record. The form should be completed in full, signed and placed in a separate sealable envelope with the following details written on the outside Private & Confidential, your name, Position applied for, date of application. The envelope should be returned with your completed application form.**

We do not exclude people who are related to, or have a close personal relationship with our councillors, employees or school governors. We will make sure that they do not take part in the selection for this post.

## MONITORING

This Authority has an Equal Opportunity in Employment Policy, which we ensure that we monitor to ensure that our employees reflect the community that we serve. The information provided will be treated in strictest confidence, is never available to the recruiting manager and will only be used for monitoring purposes.