



An tOmbudsman Seirbhísí
Airgeadais agus Pinsean

Financial Services and
Pensions Ombudsman

Candidate Information Booklet

The Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman intends to hold a competition for the purpose of recommending suitable persons for appointment to the position of:

Decision Drafters at

Assistant Principal Officer Grade

Closing date: Tuesday, 14 January 2025



The Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman runs this campaign in compliance with the Codes of Practice for Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) which are available on www.cpsa.ie.

The Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman,
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About the FSPO

The Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman (FSPO) was established to resolve complaints from consumers, including small businesses and other organisations, against financial service providers or pension providers.

The FSPO provides an independent, fair, impartial, confidential and free service to resolve complaints through either informal mediation or formal investigation and adjudication. When a consumer is unable to resolve a complaint or dispute with a financial service provider or pension provider, they can refer their complaint to the FSPO.

More information about the FSPO is available at www.fspo.ie, including:

- [Video: 'What happens when we receive your complaint'](#)
- [Video: What to expect during Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Video: What to expect during the Investigation process](#)
- [FSPO Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024](#)
- [Overview of Complaints 2023](#)

The FSPO is an equal opportunities employer, and we welcome applications from across the spectrum of society to join our open, supportive organisation and reflect the diversity of our service users.

About this competition

The FSPO is seeking to recruit suitable candidates to be placed on a panel for the role of **Decision Drafter** at **Assistant Principal Officer Grade**.

The FSPO expects to establish a panel from this campaign. Successful candidates will be placed on a panel from which appointments may be made. There are currently a number of positions available. Vacancies will be offered to candidates placed on the panel based on the Order of Merit from interview and written assessment and/or other test of capability to fulfil the requirements of the role. Once an offer of appointment has been accepted or rejected by a candidate, a candidate will be removed from the panel and no further offers of appointment will be made to that candidate. Any panel formed as part of this campaign which is not exhausted through appointment of candidates to current or future vacancies will expire **1 year** from the date of creation of the panel.

Successful candidates, in accordance with the Order of Merit, may be offered alternative roles at the grade of Assistant Principal Officer in other areas of the



FSPO, should the FSPO identify vacancies suitable to the requirements for this competition while the panel is in place. If a candidate rejects an offer of an alternative role within the FSPO, that candidate will remain on the panel for the role of Decision Drafter.

About the Decision Drafter (AP) Role

In general, an Assistant Principal can expect to be involved in the analysis of complex issues, communicating and engaging with stakeholders, the management and delivery of the FSPO's service, provision of guidance, managing, leading and motivating teams of people, managing stakeholders and delivering programmes. The Assistant Principal is a senior managerial grade in the FSPO and is a critical post in terms of delivery of the organisation's strategic plan and ensuring quality service delivery to the public. This person will be required to provide strong leadership to support the ongoing quality of the service, including meeting challenging key performance indicators.

Specific to the role of Decision Drafter, they may be involved in any of the parts of the formal investigation process, including the following:

Drafting of Summaries of Complaint: The Summary of Complaint articulates the specific conduct complained of to the FSPO, to which the respondent Provider must answer. This incorporates a comprehensive and appropriate "Schedule of Questions" and "Schedule of Evidence Required" suitable to gathering of necessary detail and evidence, for the effective progression of the investigation of the individual complaint

Drafting of Preliminary Decisions, suitable to the quasi-judicial function of the FSPO: The Preliminary Decision takes into account, inter alia, the nature of the conduct complained of, the respective parties' contractual positions, the evidence, and includes comment as to the legal and regulatory responsibilities of the parties. The analysis within the draft Preliminary Decision also comes to a preliminary conclusion on the grounds as set out in the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman Act 2017 and proposes suitable redress, if appropriate to the outcome. This draft Preliminary Decision will then be reviewed by the Ombudsman, Deputy Ombudsman or a delegate. The Decision Drafter will liaise with the proposed signatory in relation to the draft Preliminary Decision until it is ready for issue.

Drafting of Legally Binding Decisions: Once a Preliminary Decision is drafted, reviewed by the Ombudsman, Deputy Ombudsman or a delegate and issued, if the parties to the complaint make further submissions after the Preliminary Decision issues, these will be managed by the Decision Drafter. The Decision Drafter will take these further submissions into account when drafting a Legally Binding Decision. This draft Legally Binding Decision will then be reviewed by the Ombudsman, Deputy Ombudsman or a delegate. The Decision Drafter will liaise with the proposed signatory in relation to the draft Legally Binding



Decision until it is ready for issue.

The Decision Drafter will work closely with the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman, Deputy/ies Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman, the Director of Investigation Services, the Head of Legal Services and any party to whom the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman delegates decision making. They will also liaise and interact with senior management in respect of their areas of responsibility.

Specific key responsibilities will include:

- To investigate complaints and draft fair and balanced decisions contributing to the development of robust decisions
- To work with the Ombudsman, Deputies, and/or delegates in relation to the draft decisions and/or documents prepared and to have in depth discussions about those decisions
- To engage with the parties to the complaint, as required
- To manage the assigned complaint caseload effectively within the stipulated timeframes
- Researching and keeping abreast of relevant legislation, regulation and case law to ensure draft decisions have regard to the statutory and regulatory background within which the conduct complained of occurred
- To deal efficiently with administrative duties as required
- Contribute to the development and achievement of the strategic goals of the FSPO generally, and divisional objectives in particular, by participating in cross-divisional projects as required and progressing potential strategic projects.
- Any other duties as assigned by the Ombudsman from time to time.

The responsibilities outlined in this job description should not be regarded as comprehensive in scope and may be added to or altered as required, in line with the requirements of the FSPO. The duties appropriate to the post will be determined by the Ombudsman and may cover a range of activities allowing for maximum flexibility according to the needs of the organisation appropriate to the grade of Assistant Principal Officer.



Experience, Qualifications & Personal Qualities Required

Personal Qualities

In order to be effective in the role of Decision Drafter (Assistant Principal) in the FSPO, the successful candidate should have:

- The ability to work under pressure to tight deadlines
- Analytical skills, attention to detail, thorough judgement, and problem-solving skills
- The ability to take a strategic approach in the delivery of key objectives, to foster a positive working relationship with colleagues and to lead and work on teams
- The confidence to liaise with senior personnel, legal and other professionals and to provide collaborative leadership and guidance to more junior staff
- A commitment to the delivery of quality public service; and
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Essential Requirements

Candidates, on or before **14 January 2025**, must meet either **1** or **2** AND must meet **i**, **ii** and **iii**:

1. A) Have been called to the Bar and be enrolled as a Barrister in the State or have been admitted and be enrolled as a Solicitor in the State

AND

1. B) Have practised as a Barrister or Solicitor in the State for not less than three years.

OR

2. A) Hold a qualification at Level 8 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) OR an equivalent professional qualification

AND

2. B) a minimum of **5 years** demonstratable professional experience relevant to the role.



AND

Candidates must also have the necessary experience with a record of achievement that demonstrates their capacity to deliver in this challenging role including:

- i. Experience of analysing, evaluating and integrating a range of complex information such as contractual, legislative or regulatory provisions, in a rational and objective manner
- ii. Experience demonstrating good judgement and sound decision-making
- iii. Excellent writing skills and attention to detail as evidenced in their application form and/or written exercise

In addition to the specific essential requirements set out above, candidates must be able to demonstrate that they possess the competencies identified for effective performance at Assistant Principal Officer level as set out in Appendix A.

Desirable Requirements

In addition to the above essential requirements, it would be a decided advantage for candidates to have some or all of the following:

- Relevant experience in the financial services or pensions sectors
- Familiarity with financial services and pensions legislative or regulatory provisions and case law or a demonstrated ability to quickly develop this and a desire and ability to keep up to date with developments in these areas
- IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook and MS Teams
- Demonstrable evidence of ongoing professional and personal development
- Experience of working within a judicial, quasi-judicial environment or similar, with experience of adherence to the principles of fair procedure and the ability to make evidence-based decisions
- Demonstrable knowledge and appreciation of the statutory, governance and policy framework within which the FSPO operates.

An invitation to tests, interview or any element of the selection process is not acceptance of eligibility. Eligibility may not be confirmed until the final stage of the process, therefore, candidates who do not possess the essential requirements, on the closing date of 14 January 2025, and who nevertheless proceed with their application, are putting themselves to unnecessary effort/expense and will not be offered a position from this campaign. Candidates who are unable to show that they hold the qualifications outlined in their application may be eliminated from the campaign at any stage.



Other Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility:

Candidates must, by the date of any job offer, be:

- (a) A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or
- (b) A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or
- (c) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
- (d) A non-EEA citizen who has a stamp 4 visa; or
- (e) A person awarded international protection under the International Protection Act 2015, or a family member entitled to remain in the State as a result of family reunification and has a stamp 4 visa or
- (f) A non-EEA citizen who is a parent of a dependent child who is a citizen of, and resident in, an EEA member state or the UK or Switzerland and has a stamp 4 visa.

Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28 June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1 June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the Public Service by any Public Service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility).



Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are not eligible to apply for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010)

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider Public Service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years. People who availed of the VER scheme are not eligible to compete in this competition. People who availed of the VRS scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility).

Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013)

The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government Circular Letter LG(P) 06/2013 introduced a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme for Local Authorities. In accordance with the terms of the *Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants* dated 28 June 2012 as detailed above, it is a specific condition of that VER Scheme that persons will not be eligible for re-employment in any Public Service body [as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011 and the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012] for a period of 2 years from their date of departure under this Scheme. These conditions also apply in the case of engagement/employment on a contract for service basis (either as a contractor or as an employee of a contractor).

Declaration

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a Public Service scheme of incentivised early retirement. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.



Principal Conditions of Service

General

While it is envisaged that appointments arising from this competition will be to a full-time permanent position in the public service (following an appropriate initial probationary period), the FSPO reserves the right to use the panel formed from this competition to fill other vacancies which may arise which may not be permanent in tenure.

Pay

The salary and terms and conditions for an Assistant Principal Officer are those, as set out below, that currently apply to Assistant Principal Officer (Standard Scale PPC) in the public service.

Assistant Principal Officer (PPC)

€79,086 €81,999 €84,952 €87,914 €90,873 €92,579 €95,563¹
€98,559²

Long service increments may be payable after 3 (LSI1) and 6 (LSI2) years' satisfactory service at the maximum of the scale.

Candidates should note that entry will be at the minimum of the salary scale and will not be subject to negotiation and the rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy. Increments may be awarded subject to satisfactory performance, in line with Government pay policy.

Important Note

Different terms and conditions may apply if, immediately prior to appointment, the appointee is already a serving Civil Servant or Public Servant.

Tenure

The appointment will be to a permanent post in the public service. The appointee will be required to serve a 10-month probationary period.

Assignment / Location

The successful candidate's place of work will be the FSPO's offices at Lincoln House, Dublin 2. Presently, FSPO staff can currently apply to work remotely for up to three days per week. This is subject to business needs, performance, and the requirements of the role. Future working arrangements will be determined by the broader public service policy framework.



When required to travel on official duty the appointee will be paid appropriate travelling expenses and subsistence allowances, subject to normal public service regulations.

Hours of Attendance

Hours of attendance will be fixed from time to time but will amount to not less than 43 hours and 15 minutes gross per week. The successful candidate will be required to work such additional hours from time to time as may be reasonable and necessary for the proper performance of his/her duties subject to the limits set down in the working time regulations. The rate of remuneration payable covers any extra attendance liability that may arise from time to time.

Annual Leave

The annual leave allowance for the position of Assistant Principal Officer is 30 days. This allowance is subject to the usual conditions regarding the granting of annual leave in the Civil Service, is based on a five-day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays.

Health

A candidate for, and any person holding the office, must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

Sick Leave

Pay during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service, will apply on a pro-rata basis, in accordance with the provisions of the sick leave circulars.

Appointees who will be paying the Class A rate of PRSI, will be required to sign a mandate authorising the Department of Social Protection to pay any benefits due under the Social Welfare Acts direct to the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman. Payment of salary during illness will be subject to the appointee making the necessary claims for social insurance benefit to the Department of Social Protection within the required time limits.

Superannuation and Retirement

The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the public service, at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, and except for candidates who have worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment (see paragraph d below), this means being



offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

A. Pensionable Age

The minimum age at which retirement benefits are payable is the same as the age of eligibility for the State Pension, currently 66 years.

B. Retirement Age

Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.

C. Pension Abatement

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil/Public Service and is in receipt of a pension from the Civil/Public Service normal abatement rules will apply. However, if the appointee was previously employed in the Civil/Public Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER) or the Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS which, as indicated above, renders a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements will however, be made for the reckoning of previous service given by the appointee for the purpose of any future superannuation award for which the appointee may be eligible.

If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service or in the Public Service please note that the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 includes a provision which extends abatement of pension for all Civil and Public Servants who are re-employed where a Public Service pension is in payment. This provision to apply abatement across the wider public service came into effect on 1 November 2012.

This may have pension implications for any person appointed to this position who is currently in receipt of a Civil or Public Service pension or has a preserved Civil or Public Service pension which will come into payment during his/her employment in this position.



Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007

The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under Strands 1, 2 or 3 of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme will immediately cease. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e., the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).

III-Health Retirement

Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

D. Prior Public Servants

While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However, the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non- single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme.

In this case such a candidate would instead be offered membership of the pension scheme for non-established civil servants ("Non-Established State Employee Scheme"). This would mean that the abatement provisions at (c) above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below.

E. Pension Accrual

A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.



F. Additional Superannuation Contribution

This appointment is subject to the Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) in accordance with the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017. **Note:** ASC deductions are in addition to any pension contributions required under the rules of your pension scheme. For further information in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for Public Servants please see the following website: [Single Public Service Pension Scheme \(singlepensionscheme.gov.ie\)](http://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie)

Important Notice

The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with the successful candidate.

Application and Selection Process

How to apply

All candidates should visit www.fspo.ie/careers, which provides the application form for this competition. **Applications received in any format other than the corresponding application form will not be accepted. Therefore, candidates must ensure they use the correct application form.** The FSPO expects candidates to complete this application form without the support or use of AI tools as it should reflect the specific relevant personal experience. Completed application forms should be submitted to FSPOcareers@cpl.ie with 'Application for the position of Decision Drafter (AP)' in the subject line.

Closing Date:

Application must be submitted by email to arrive no later than **14 January 2025**. **Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.**

Selection Process:

The selection process may include the following:

- Shortlisting of candidates based on the information contained in their application
- A written in person exercise/assessment.
- Presentation or other exercises



- Interview(s), either online or in person
- Work sample or any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate.

Candidates invited for interview should make themselves available on the date(s) specified by the FSPO and should ensure that the contact details specified on their application form are correct. If you cannot attend on the specified date/time for interview and/or the written exercise, you will be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.

Shortlisting:

Normally the number of applications received exceeds the numbers required to fill existing and future vacancies. While you may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the positions are such that it would not be practical to assess and/or interview everyone, the FSPO may decide that only a certain number of candidates will be called to interview.

In this respect, the FSPO provides for the employment of a shortlisting process to select a group for interview who, based on an examination of the application forms, appear to be the most suitable for the position. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable, or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates who are, *prima facie*, better qualified and/or have more relevant experience.

Candidates with Disabilities:

If a candidate requires reasonable accommodation to be made at any stage of the selection process, please make this known by stating your requirements by email to FSPOcareers@cpl.ie. Every effort will be made to make the necessary reasonable arrangements to assist you.

Confidentiality:

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

Other Important Information:

The FSPO will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

The admission of a person to a competition, or invitation to attend interview, or a successful result notification, is not to be taken as implying that the FSPO is satisfied that such a person fulfils the requirements or is not disqualified by law from holding the position and does not carry a guarantee that your application will receive further consideration.



It is important, therefore, for you to note that the onus is on you to ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements for the competition before attending for interview. If you do not meet these essential entry requirements but nevertheless attend for interview you will be putting yourself to unnecessary effort and/or expense.

Prior to recommending any candidate for appointment to this position, the FSPO will make all such enquiries that are deemed necessary to determine the suitability of that candidate. Until all stages of the recruitment process have been fully completed, a final determination cannot be made, nor can it be deemed or inferred that such a determination has been made.

Should the person recommended for appointment decline, or having accepted it, relinquish it or if an additional vacancy arises the FSPO may, at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process.

Candidates' Rights - Review Procedures in relation to the Selection Process:

The FSPO will consider requests for review in accordance with the provisions of the codes of practice published by the CPSA. The Codes of Practice are available on the website of the Commission for Public Service Appointments <http://www.cpsa.ie/>.

Candidates' Obligations:

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify and will result in their exclusion from the process.

Candidates must not:

- knowingly or recklessly provide false information
- canvass any person with or without inducements
- interfere with or compromise the process in any way

A third party must not impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process.

Any person who contravenes the above provisions or who assists another person in contravening the above provisions is guilty of an offence. A person who is found guilty of an offence is liable to a fine/or imprisonment.

In addition, where a person found guilty of an offence was or is a candidate at a recruitment process, then:



- where he/she has not been appointed to a post, he/she will be disqualified as a candidate; and
- where he/she has been appointed subsequently to the recruitment process in question, he/she shall forfeit that appointment.

Specific candidate criteria:

Candidates must:

- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned
- Be suitable on the grounds of character
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned

and if successful, they will not be appointed to the post unless they:

- Agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed
- Are fully competent and available to undertake, and fully capable of undertaking, the duties attached to the position

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn:

Candidates who do not attend for interview or other test when and where required by the FSPO, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the FSPO requires in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration.

Data Protection:

As part of the recruitment and job application process, we will collect your Personal Data. It is necessary for us to process your Personal Data in order to assess your job application and/or include you in a recruitment initiative. Ultimately, it may also be necessary for us to process your Personal Data in order to take steps to offer and enter into a contract of employment with you. We may disclose some or all of your Personal Data to the following parties: your previous employer(s) (where you have listed them as your referee(s)); Recruiters (where your application is being handled by a Recruiter); outsourced service providers who assist the FSPO with recruitment initiatives and campaigns including but not limited to the Public Appointments Services. Where you are an unsuccessful job applicant, we will retain your Personal Data for a period of up to 12 Months from interview and 12 months from expiration of panel. If you have any concerns about the way your Personal Data is being used or processed by FSPO, please e-mail dataprotection@fspo.ie. Please see our full [data protection notice](#).



Appendix 1

Key competencies for effective performance at Assistance Principal Officer level:

Assistant Principal Officer



Assistant Principal Officer Level Competencies

Effective Performance Indicators

Leadership

Actively contributes to the development of the strategies and policies of the Department/Organisation

Brings a focus and drive to building and sustaining high levels of performance, addressing any performance issues as they arise

Leads and maximises the contribution of the team as a whole

Considers the effectiveness of outcomes in terms wider than own immediate area

Clearly defines objectives/goals and delegates effectively, encouraging ownership and responsibility for tasks

Develops capability of others through feedback, coaching and creating opportunities for skills development

Identifies and takes opportunities to exploit new and innovative service delivery channels

Judgement, Analysis & Decision Making

Researches issues thoroughly, consulting appropriately to gather all information needed on an issue

Understands complex issues quickly, accurately absorbing and evaluating data (including numerical data)

Integrates diverse strands of information, identifying inter-relationships and linkages



Uses judgement to make clear, timely and well-grounded decisions on important issues

Considers the wider implications, agendas and sensitivities within decisions and the impact on a range of stakeholders

Takes a firm position on issues they consider important

Management and Delivery of Results

Takes responsibility for challenging tasks and delivers on time and to a high standard

Plans and prioritises work in terms of importance, timescales and other resource constraints, re-prioritising in light of changing circumstances

Ensures quality and efficient customer service is central to the work of the division

Looks critically at issues to see how things can be done better

Is open to new ideas initiatives and creative solutions to problems

Ensures controls and performance measures are in place to deliver efficient and high value services

Effectively manages multiple projects

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Presents information in a confident, logical and convincing manner, verbally and in writing



Encourages open and constructive discussions around work issues

Promotes teamwork within the section, but also works effectively on projects across Departments/sectors

Maintains poise and control when working to influence others

Instils a strong focus on Customer Service in their area

Develops and maintains a network of contacts to facilitate problem solving or information sharing

Engages effectively with a range of stakeholders, including members of the public, Public Service colleagues and the political system

Specialist Knowledge, Expertise and Self Development

Has a clear understanding of the roles objectives and targets of self and the team and how they fit into the work of the unit and Department/organisation

Has a breadth and depth of knowledge of Department and Governmental issues and is sensitive to wider political and organisational priorities

Is considered an expert by stakeholders in own field/area

Is focused on self-development, seeking feedback and opportunities for growth to help carry out the specific requirements of the role



Drive and Commitment to Public Service Values

Is self-motivated and shows a desire to continuously perform at a high level

Is personally honest and trustworthy and can be relied upon

Ensures the citizen is at the heart of all services provided

Through leading by example, fosters the highest standards of ethics and integrity





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Airgeadais agus Pinsean

Financial Services and
Pensions Ombudsman

Teach Lincoln, Plás Lincoln,
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 VH29.

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