



An tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí Public Appointments Service

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BOOKLET

The Public Appointments Service intends to hold a competition for the purpose of recommending a person for appointment to the position of

Executive Director Finance & Services, an Garda Síochána

Closing Date: 3pm Thursday 6th June 2024

The Public Appointments Service is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

The Public Appointments Service will run this campaign in compliance with the Code of Practice for Appointments to Positions in the Civil and Public Service, published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) and available on www.cpsa.ie

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Executive Director Finance & Services, an Garda Síochána

Title: Executive Director Finance & Services

Office: An Garda Síochána

Location: Dublin

Context

An Garda Síochána, Ireland's police and security service, is growing, reforming and changing. This is a rare opportunity to shape the development of the organisation's finance function in the context of the Irish Government's commitment to a major modernisation programme.

The right candidate for this role will have extensive financial experience at a senior leadership level in a large complex organisation. Leading the Change Programme to transform the Finance and Services function and positioning it as a strategic partner in the effective and efficient management of An Garda Síochána will be a priority for the successful candidate.

About An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána is the national policing service of Ireland which aims to keep people safe through provision of an effective and efficient service that enjoys community support. The 2024 budget for An Garda Síochána is c €2.3bn. As Accounting Officer, the Garda Commissioner has responsibility for all expenditure from the Garda Vote with due regard to economy and efficiency.

The Mission of An Garda Síochána is "Keeping People Safe" with the statutory functions of the organisation set out in Section 7 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, i.e. to provide policing and security services for the state with the objective of:

- Preserving peace and public order;
- Protecting life and property;
- Vindicating the human rights of each individual;
- Protecting the security of the State;
- Preventing crime;
- Bringing criminals to justice, including by detecting and investigating crime; and
- Regulating and controlling road traffic and improving road safety.

An Garda Síochána also performs a range of immigration and other statutory functions and actively engages with police and security services in other jurisdictions and relevant international organisations.

The recently enacted Policing, Security and Community Safety Act (2024) will make further and better provision in relation to An Garda Síochána and, in particular, will strengthen the governance and accountability of An Garda Síochána through changes to the governance and oversight arrangements. These arrangements include establishing a new independent Board, a National Office for Community Safety, the Policing and Community Safety Authority and the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission.

In 2018, the Government published “*A Policing Service for the Future*”, which detailed a four-year implementation plan of the recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. The plan covers key areas such as culture, structure, governance, performance management and technology. The reform agenda includes a restructuring and modernisation of the finance operations in the context of the growing and changing structure of the organisation.

On the 1st July 2024 the Policing Security and Community Safety Act 2024 will commence. This Act gives effect to a Programme for Government commitment and forms part of the wider policing reform programme “A Policing Service for the Future” as referenced above. The Act has four main objectives to make community safety a whole of Government responsibility, to strengthen independent external oversight of An Garda Síochána, to strengthen internal governance in An Garda Síochána and to improve oversight of national security arrangements in the State through the establishment of an Independent Examiner of security legislation. The successful candidate for the role of Executive Director, Finance and Services will play an essential role in the implementation of the Act and the provisions of same.

In support of the objective to ensure the most effective use of resources, the Garda Commissioner wishes to appoint a suitably qualified person to the role of Executive Director, Finance and Services. The Executive Director, Finance and Services, as part of the Senior Leadership Team, will play a key role in the implementation of the broader organisational change programme and will be directly responsible for driving a new programme of transformation of the finance function in the organisation.

Responsibilities of the Post

Reporting to the Chief Corporate Officer, the Executive Director will operate in the dynamic environment of a large and complex organisation with a wide geographical spread. As a key member of the organisation’s Senior Leadership Team, the Executive Director will share corporate responsibility for the leadership, management, policy and strategic direction of An Garda Síochána in delivering its corporate goals.

Responsibilities include management of the Garda Vote, the Estimates process and Budget setting, leading a high performing team of finance, procurement, estate and fleet management professionals. A key focus of the job will be to modernise the financial systems, financial processes and financial capabilities in An Garda Síochána while providing governance oversight of the annual budget allocation to maximise delivery of An Garda Síochána strategic objectives and broader reform agenda.

The person appointed will have responsibility for:

Finance

Leading high level negotiations and engaging as required throughout the year with the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform on the Annual Estimates campaign, at the Joint Working Group on Resources for An Garda Síochána and in relation to other financial matters concerning An Garda Síochána;

- Overseeing the management of the annual budget through a devolved budgetary framework, optimising the organisation's financial performance, and ensuring that the financial resources assigned to An Garda Síochána are deployed in the most efficient and effective manner to deliver a comprehensive response to the challenging environment in which An Garda Síochána operates.
- Managing financial performance against budgeted targets across An Garda Síochána, identifying ameliorative measures where required and overseeing the implementation of these.
- Ensuring the organisation has the appropriate management information for organisational control and efficiency.
- Developing and implementing an appropriate governance framework for the Finance Directorate, conducting business risk assessments and exposing financial and operational risk to the Chief Corporate Officer and to Assistant Commissioner, Governance and Accountability and making recommendations for remediation to address control deficiencies
- Supporting the Commissioner in their role as Accounting Officer and in their appearances before the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee, ensuring that there is an adequate internal control framework in place and that statutory and other requirements regarding the preparation of the Appropriation Account, compliance with public financial procedures and other accounting and reporting requirements are met.
- Supporting the Commissioner in their engagement with the Policing Authority by providing comprehensive information to allow the Authority to review and advise on the adequacy of resources and the sufficiency of the arrangements for managing and deploying those resources.
- Attending the Board and Audit and Risk Committee meetings and facilitating the work of Internal and external auditors.

Reform of Garda Finance Directorate

- Leading the transformation of An Garda Síochána finance function to meet the requirements of a modern public service organisation in accordance with the requirements of government reforms and to meet the operational requirements of the organisation, in particular the actions under '*A Policing Service for the Future*' to develop the finance capacity of An Garda Síochána.

- Building organisational financial management capacity and capability across the organisation to meet the requirements of the new strategy and governance arrangements including process improvements, embracing digital and data transformation and skills building.

Other Managerial Responsibilities

The Executive Director, Finance & Services is additionally responsible for the strategic oversight and accountability of a number of business support functions. The Heads of Function for Finance, Procurement, Estate Management and Fleet Management will report directly to the Executive Director and are responsible for the day to day operations of these areas. The Executive Director provides support and guidance and performance assurance to these functional heads.

Person Specification

The person appointed will be able to clearly demonstrate the key competencies for effective performance at Assistant Secretary Level developed by TLAC as set out on page 6. In addition, the successful candidate will possess the following:

- A proven track record in a senior leadership role in a large, complex organisation with responsibility for large-scale financial management, and financial governance;
- Significant senior management experience with transformation leadership in a large, complex organisation;
- Experience of leading, motivating and engaging large teams of professionals through complex change, in a dynamic and fast paced organisation;
- Experience of complex strategic reform of a finance function in a large complex environment;
- Have an appreciation of the requirements of government accounting and an ability to quickly gain a detailed knowledge of Government accounting practices, EU directives and national procurement rules;
- An ability to understand and adapt to the unique governance and oversight requirements of Public Bodies, the Code of practice for the Governance of State Bodies, Risk and Compliance standards and public procurement;
- A proven ability to provide effective leadership at Management Board level with demonstrated ability to manage challenging situations in the context of a change and reform agenda;
- A proven ability to develop constructive and co-operative senior relationships across business and functional areas within a large organisation and with other stakeholder organisations, such as the Department of Justice and the Department of Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery and Reform;
- Strong emotional and cultural intelligence and ability to understand and negotiate differences within a complex organisational environment;
- Highly developed organisational skills with the ability to align project priorities with organisational strategy;

- Competence in developing trust within organisational teams and demonstrable talent management and coaching skills;
- Demonstrated ability and experience to lead and motivate cross-functional, multidisciplinary teams to achieve tactical and strategic goals;
- Ability to work in a fast-changing and sometimes ambiguous environment, identifying key priorities and driving new solutions;
- Have experience of operating in a shared services environment;
- Have sound judgement, excellent analytical and decision making skills and a proven ability to interpret and use complex data in the development of policy and strategy, showing the political awareness necessary to deal with sensitive policy and operational issues and to advise the Garda Commissioner and key stakeholders at the highest level.

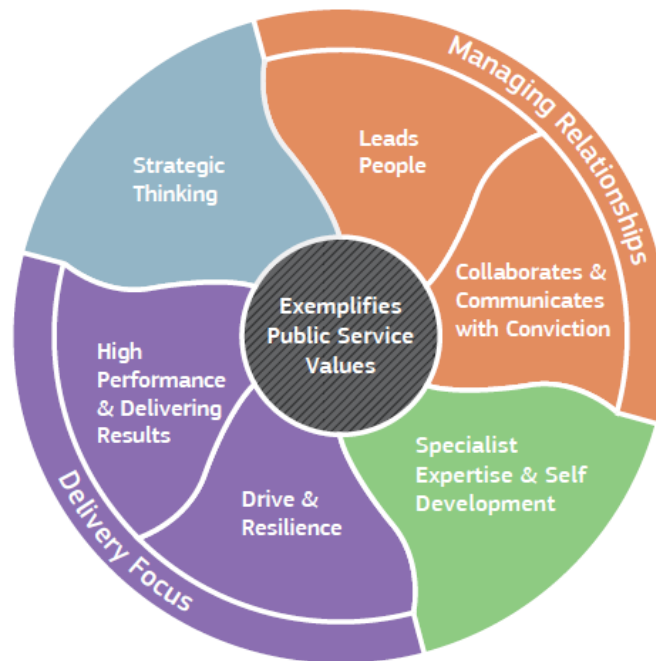
Essential Qualifications

A third level degree and be a current registered member of a prescribed professional accountancy body with significant experience in a senior financial leadership role.

Key Competencies for effective performance at Assistant Secretary Level:

The attention of candidates is drawn to the key competencies that have been developed for use by the Top-Level Appointments Committee (TLAC) for Assistant Secretary Posts.

The competency model reflects the changing and more complex environment in which those at Assistant Secretary level operate, with fewer resources, pressure for delivery of results, increased media and public scrutiny and an ambitious public service reform programme.



“Public Service Values” underpin four key competency areas, two of which have sub-elements.

Each of the key competencies in the new model is supported by a list of key performance indicators set out in the ‘Information Note’ available in the Advice Centre on publicjobs.ie [Assistant Secretary Competencies](#).

Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility:

Citizenship Requirements

Eligible candidates must 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 4¹ visa or a stamp 5 visa.

To qualify candidates must be eligible by the date of any job offer.

Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st 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 are not eligible to compete in this competition. People who availed of VRS and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility).

¹ Please note that a 50 TEU visa, which is a replacement for Stamp 4EUFAM after Brexit, is acceptable as a Stamp 4 equivalent.

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.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

How to Apply

Applications must be made by submitting an on-line application and attaching a single document with the following elements included:

- **A comprehensive CV, including an organisation chart** (See **Senior Executive CV Guidance** note [here](#))
- **The 'Key Achievements Form'** (Available [here](#))
- **A short cover letter/ personal statement** (*i.e. no more than 2 pages*) outlining why you wish to be considered for the post and where you believe your skills, experience and values meet the requirements of the position.

Closing Date: 3pm Thursday 6th June 2024

Selection Process:

The Selection Process may include:

- shortlisting of candidates, on the basis of the information contained in their application;
- a competitive preliminary interview;
- completion of an online questionnaire(s);

- case study/work sample/role play/media exercise, and any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate;
- a competitive interview, which may include a presentation

Please note interviews may take place virtually by Zoom.

Please Note

We acknowledge receipt of all applications. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 3 days of applying, please email joanne.mcdonnell@publicjobs.ie You can expect to receive emails from us at the relevant stages notifying you to check your secure publicjobs.ie message board for campaign updates. We endeavour to give as much notice as possible for interview dates etc., candidates should make themselves available on the date(s) specified by the Public Appointments Service.

It is important to be aware that candidates must let the PAS know of any extenuating circumstances prior to or during the particular stage of the selection process. Any documentary evidence must be supplied within 5 working days. Please note that submission of such document(s) is not a guarantee that the circumstances outlined will alter the decision/outcome. A candidate who undertakes any part of the selection process and who subsequently claims extenuating circumstances should note that this will not be considered. Examples of possible extenuating circumstances include hospitalisation or bereavement.

The onus is on candidates to ensure that they perform to the best of their ability. Therefore, issues such as tiredness, nerves, travel to tests/interviews or expected results/performance not achieved, are not considered extenuating circumstances.

Candidates with Disabilities

The Public Appointments Service has a key role to play in attracting candidates from all sectors of society, ensuring that routes to career opportunities are accessible to all who are interested. We are committed to equality of opportunity for all candidates. If you have a disability or need reasonable accommodations made during the selection process, we strongly encourage you to share this with us so that we can ensure you get the support you need.

Reasonable accommodation in our selection process refers to adjustments and practical changes which would enable a disabled candidate to have an equal opportunity for this competition. Examples of adjustments we provide include the use of assistive technology, extra time, scribes and/or readers or a range of other accommodations.

Please be assured that having a disability or requiring adjustments will not impact on your progress in the selection process; you will not be at a disadvantage if you disclose your disability or requirements to us. Your disability and/or adjustments will be kept entirely confidential.

Should you be successful, the disclosure of a disability for this stage of the process will not be passed onto the employing department unless you request that we do so.

If you have indicated on your application/profile that you require reasonable accommodations, please submit a psychologist/medical report to ASU@publicjobs.ie.

The purpose of the report is to provide PAS with information to act as a basis for determining reasonable accommodations, where appropriate. The information within these reports that is useful for us to see includes the outcome of any diagnostic tests conducted by your psychologist/doctor, and their summary of recommendations in relation to your requirements. You may redact (block out) parts of medical reports/psychologist's reports that you feel are sensitive or unnecessary for the decision to make reasonable adjustments.

These reports must be forwarded to the Assessment Services unit by close of business on **Thursday 6th June 2024**.

You should email a scanned copy of the report to asu@publicjobs.ie.

If you have previously applied for a competition with PAS and submitted a report, please email asu@publicjobs.ie to confirm that your report is still on file.

If you would like to talk about your application or any accommodations that may be of benefit during the recruitment process, please contact our Disability Champion, Amanda Kavanagh, at amanda.kavanagh@publicjobs.ie For further information on the accessibility of our service please see our [Accessibility page](#).

Shortlisting

The number of applications received for a position generally exceeds that required to fill the position. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the Public Appointments Service may decide that a smaller number will be called to the next stage of the selection process. In this respect, the Public Appointments Service provide for the employment of a shortlisting process to select a group 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 based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience.

An expert board will examine the application forms against agreed shortlisting criteria based on the requirements of the position. The shortlisting criteria may include both the essential and desirable criteria specified for the position. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications/experience in your application.

References

It would be useful if you would begin to consider names of people who would be suitable referees and that we might consult (2 names and contact details). The referees do not have to include your current employer but should be in a position to provide a reference for you, at least one of these should be a person to whom you have had a direct reporting relationship. The referees should be able to provide relatively recent information on your performance and behaviour in a work context. You may wish to select referees that can provide such information from different perspectives or in different work contexts. Please be assured that we will only contact referees should you come under consideration after the preliminary interview stage. Please note, should you be successful at final interview, we will require a reference from your current employer prior to recommendation for appointment. Successful candidates may be required to complete a number of clearance processes such as Health and Character Declaration, Garda Vetting, and any other relevant checks required for the particular role.

If you feel you would benefit from a confidential discussion about any aspect of this significant opportunity, please contact by email Ciarán Oman at ciaran.oman@publicjobs.ie

Employer of Choice

As an **Employer of Choice** the Civil Service has many flexible and family friendly policies e.g. Work-sharing, Shorter Working Year, Remote Working (operated on a 'blended' basis) etc. All elective policies can be applied for in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and are subject to the business needs of the organisation.

Principal Conditions of Service

The appointment is subject to the Civil Service Regulations Acts 1956 to 2005 and the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and any other Act for the time being in force relating to the Civil Service.

Please note appointments that occur pre-commencement of the Policing Security & Community Safety Act will be to a Civil Service grade with Civil Service terms and conditions. Appointments that occur post-commencement of the Act will be to the Public Service to a grade with terms and conditions no less favourable than the equivalent Civil Service grade.

Salary

The salary for the position, effective from 1st January 2024, is as follows:

Assistant Secretary - Personal Pension Contribution (PPC)

€159,993 €167,264 €175,145 €183,022

The PPC pay rate applies when the individual is required to pay a Personal Pension Contribution (otherwise known as a main scheme contribution) in accordance with the rules of their main/personal superannuation

scheme. This is different to a contribution in respect of membership of a Spouses' and Children's scheme, or the Additional Superannuation Contributions (ASC).

A different rate will apply where the appointee is not required to make a Personal Pension Contribution.

Candidates should note that entry will be at the minimum of the scale and the rate of remuneration, including incremental progression, will not be subject to negotiation and may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

You will agree that any overpayment of salary, allowances, or expenses will be repaid by you in accordance with Circular 07/2018: Recovery of Salary, Allowances, and Expenses Overpayments made to Staff Members/Former Staff Members/Pensioners.

Tenure and Probation

The appointment is to a permanent position on a probationary contract in the Civil Service.

The probationary contract will be for a period of one year from the date specified on the contract. During the period of your probationary contract, your performance will be subject to review by your supervisor(s) to determine whether you –

- (i) Have performed in a satisfactory manner,
- (ii) Have been satisfactory in general conduct, and
- (iii) Are suitable from the point of view of health with particular regard to sick leave.

Prior to the completion of the probationary contract a decision will be made as to whether or not you will be retained pursuant to *Section 5A(2) Civil Service Regulation Acts 1956–2005*. This decision will be based on your performance assessed against the criteria set out in (i) to (iii) above. The detail of the probationary process will be explained to you by the Office, and you will be given a copy of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's guidelines on probation.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs in this section, the probationary contract may be terminated at any time prior to the expiry of the term of the contract by either side in accordance with the Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts, 1973 to 2005.

In the following circumstances your contract may be extended, and your probation period suspended.

- The probationary period stands suspended when an employee is absent due to Maternity or Adoptive Leave.
- In relation to an employee absent on Parental Leave or Carers Leave, the employer may require probation to be suspended if the absence is not considered to be consistent with the continuation of the probation and
- Any other statutory provision providing that probation shall -
 - (i) stand suspended during an employee's absence from work, and
 - (ii) be completed by the employee on the employees return from work after such absence.

Where probation is suspended, the employer should notify the employee of the circumstances relating to the suspension.

All appointees will serve a one-year probationary period. If an appointee who fails to satisfy the conditions of probation has been a serving civil servant immediately prior to their appointment from this competition, the issue of reversion will normally arise. In the event of reversion, an officer will return to a vacancy in their former grade in their former Department.

Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977-2015

The Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977-2015 will not apply to the termination of the employment by reason only of the expiry of the probationary contract without it being renewed.

Location

The position is based in Dublin however, the successful candidate's responsibilities are across locations and will involve attendance at all locations from time to time. When absent from home and headquarters on official duty the appointee will be paid appropriate travelling expenses and subsistence allowances, subject to normal civil service regulations.

Senior Public Service

Appointees at Assistant Secretary level and above will become a member of the Senior Public Service (SPS). As a member of the SPS, you will have access to tailored learning and development initiatives, Executive Coaching, networking events, and the Executive Leadership programme.

Functions, Powers and Duties

The appointee may not engage in private practice or be connected with any outside business which would interfere with the performance of official duties or conflict in any way with the position of Assistant Secretary.

Outside Employment

The appointee may not engage in private practice or be connected with any outside business, which conflicts in any way with his/her official duties, impairs performance or compromises his/her integrity.

Hours of attendance

Hours of attendance will be fixed from time to time but will amount to not less than 41 hours 15 minutes gross per week or 35 hours net per week. No additional payment will be made for extra attendance (over and above 41.25 hours gross) as the rate of remuneration payable covers any exceptional extra attendance liability that may arise from time to time.

Annual Leave

In addition to the usual public holidays, the annual leave for this position is 30 working days.

Sick Leave

Pay during properly certified sick absence, provided there is no evidence of permanent disability for service in accordance with the provisions of the sick leave circulars.

Officers paying 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 Department of Education. Payment during illness will be subject to the officer 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 Civil Service at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, an appointee who has never worked in the Public Service will be offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"). Full details of the Scheme are at www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie.

Where the appointee has worked in a pensionable (non-Single Scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment or is currently on a career break or special leave with/without pay different terms may apply. The pension entitlement of such appointees will be established in the context of their public service employment history.

Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:

- Pensionable Age: The minimum age at which pension is payable is the same as the age of eligibility for the State Pension, currently 66.
- Retirement Age: Scheme members must retire on reaching the age of 70.
- Career average earnings are used to calculate benefits (a pension and lump sum amount accrue each year and are up-rated each year by reference to CPI).
- Post retirement pension increases are linked to CPI.

Pension Abatement

- If the appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and is in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into payment during his/her re-employment that pension **will be subject to abatement** in accordance with Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. **Please note: In applying for this position, you are acknowledging that you understand that the abatement provisions, where relevant, will apply. It is not envisaged that the employing Department/Office will support an application for an abatement waiver in respect of appointments to this position.**

- However, if the appointee was previously employed in the Civil or Public Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER), the Department of Health Circular 7/2010 VER/VRS or the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government Circular letter LG(P) 06/2013, any of which renders a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements may, 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.

- **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).

- **Ill-Health-Retirement**

Please note any person who previously retired on ill health grounds under the terms of a superannuation scheme are required to declare, at the initial application phase, that they are in receipt of such a pension to the organisation administering the recruitment competition.

Applicants will be required to attend the CMO's office to assess their ability to provide regular and effective service taking account of the condition which qualified them for IHR.

Appointment post Ill-health retirement from Civil Service

If successful in their application through the competition, the applicant should be aware of the following:

1. If deemed fit to provide regular and effective service and assigned to a post, their civil service ill-health pension ceases.
2. If the applicant subsequently fails to complete probation or decides to leave their assigned post, there can be no reversion to the civil service IHR status, nor reinstatement of the civil service IHR pension, that existed prior to the application nor is there an entitlement to same.
3. The applicant will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (SPSPS) upon appointment if they have had a break in pensionable public/civil service of more than 26 weeks.

Appointment post Ill-health retirement from public service:

1. Where an individual has retired from a public service body his/her ill-health pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement under that scheme.
2. If an applicant is successful, on appointment the applicant will be required to declare whether they are in receipt of a public service pension (ill-health or otherwise) and their public service pension may be subject to abatement.
3. The applicant will become a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (SPSPS) upon appointment if they have had a break in pensionable public/civil service of more than 26 weeks.

Please note more detailed information in relation to pension implications for those in receipt of a civil or public service ill-health pension is available [via this link](#) or upon request to PAS.

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 pre-existing public service pension scheme (i.e., non-Single Scheme) as per the 2012 Act shall apply. This 40-year limit is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.

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 (main scheme and spouses' and children's contributions) required under the rules of your pension scheme.

Secrecy, Confidentiality and Standards of Behaviour: Official Secrecy and Integrity:

During the term of the probationary contract, an officer will be subject to the Provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1963, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The officer will agree not to disclose to unauthorised third parties any confidential information either during or subsequent to the period of employment.

Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour:

The appointee will be subject to the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour.

Ethics in Public Office Acts:

The Ethics in Public Office Acts will apply, where appropriate, to this appointment.

Prior approval of publications:

An officer will agree not to publish material related to his or her official duties without prior approval. **Political Activity:**

During the term of employment, the officer will be subject to the rules governing public servants and politics.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Candidates should note that different terms and conditions may apply if, immediately prior to appointment, the appointee is a serving civil or public servant.

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.

Other important information

The Public Appointments Service 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 letter, is not to be taken as implying that the Public Appointments Service is satisfied that such a person fulfils the requirements or is not disqualified by law from holding the position.

The Public Appointments Service will make all such enquiries that are deemed necessary to determine the suitability of candidates for recommendation. 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, the Public Appointments Service may at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process.

The importance of Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

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

Candidates are expected to provide all requested documentation to PAS, including all forms issued by PAS for completion, within five days of request. Failure to do so will result in the candidate being deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and their candidature will receive no further consideration.

Quality Customer Service

We aim to provide an excellent quality service to all our customers. If, for whatever reason, you are unhappy with any aspect of the service you receive from us, we urge you to bring this to the attention of the unit or staff member concerned. This is important as it ensures that we are aware of the problem and can take the appropriate steps to resolve it.

Use of Recording Equipment

PAS does not allow the unsanctioned use of any type of recording equipment on its premises. This applies to any form of sound recording and any type of still picture or video recording, whether including sound recording or not, and covers any type of device used for these purposes. Any person wishing to use such equipment for any of these purposes must seek written permission in advance. This policy is in place to protect the privacy of staff and customers and the integrity of our assessment material and assessment processes. Unsanctioned use of recording equipment by any person is a breach of this policy. Any candidate involved in such a breach could be disqualified from the competition and could be subject to prosecution under section 55 of the Public Service Management (Recruitment & Appointments) Act, 2004.

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

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

Review and Complaint Procedures under the Code of Practice for Appointments to Positions in the Civil and Public Service

If a candidate is unhappy following the outcome of any stage of a selection process, they can either:

1. Request a **Review of a decision** made during the process

Or

2. **Make a Complaint** that the selection process followed was unfair

A candidate can follow either one of the two procedures in relation to the same aspect of a selection process, but not both. Where a review of a selection process has taken place under Section 7 (as detailed below), a complainant may not seek a further review of the same process under Section 8, other than in the most

exceptional circumstances that will be determined by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) **at its sole discretion.**

There is no obligation on PAS to suspend an appointment process while a Review or Complaint is being considered. However, the CPSA expects that, where possible, PAS will intervene in cases where it finds an error is likely to have occurred.

Requesting a Review under Section 7

A request for review may be taken by a candidate should they be dissatisfied with an action or decision taken by the Public Appointments Service (PAS). PAS will consider requests for review in accordance with the provisions of **Section 7** of the Code of Practice for Appointments to Positions in the Civil and Public Service published by the CPSA.

When making a request for a review, the candidate must support their request by outlining the facts they believe show that the action taken or decision reached was wrong. A request for review may be refused if the candidate cannot support their request.

The Informal Review will consist of a desk-based examination of any available information in relation to the recruitment process and the decision taken regarding the candidate's application. The outcome of the Informal Review Process will be communicated to the requester in writing.

- A request for Informal Review must be made within 5 working days of notification of the decision and will normally take place between the candidate and a representative of the PAS who had played a key role in the administration of the selection process.
- Where a candidate remains dissatisfied following any such informal discussion, he/she may adopt the formal procedures set out below.

A request for Formal Review must be made within 5 working days of either the notification of the selection decision, or the notification of the outcome of the Informal Review process. Any extension of these time limits will only be granted in the most exceptional of circumstances and will be at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive.

- The candidate must address his/her concerns in relation to the process in writing to the Chief Executive (via email to ceomailbox@publicjobs.ie, or in writing to Chief Executive Officer, Public Appointments Service, Chapter House, 26/30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1), outlining the facts that they believe show an action taken or decision reached was wrong.
- The Formal Review will be conducted by a person who is completely independent of the selection process
- The outcome of the Formal Review must generally be notified to the candidate within 25 working days of receipt of the request for review. If the investigation does not produce a decision within this time, PAS must keep the candidate informed of the status of the review and the reasons for the delay.

Making a Complaint under Section 8

A candidate may believe there was a breach of the Commission's Code of Practice by PAS that may have compromised the integrity of the decision reached in the appointment process. The complaints process enables candidates to make a complaint under **Section 8** to PAS in the first instance, and to the Commission for Public Service Appointments subsequently on appeal if they remain dissatisfied.

On foot of a Section 8 Complaint process, either PAS or the CPSA may find that the recruitment and selection process in question has not adhered to the standard set out in the Code of Practice. In such cases, PAS and the CPSA may make recommendations in order to prevent such issues from reoccurring again in the future.

The CPSA cannot instruct PAS to reverse a decision taken in the course of an appointment process.

Any candidate wishing for an investigation into the decision taken regarding their application as part of a selection process should request a Review under Section 7, as outlined above.

The complainant must outline the facts that they believe show that the process followed was wrong. The complainant must also identify the aspect of the Code they believe has been infringed and enclose any relevant documentation that may support the allegation. A complaint may be dismissed if they the complainant cannot support their allegations by setting out how the Public Appointments Service has fallen short of the principles of this Code.

The Informal Complaint will consist of a desk-based examination of any available information in relation to the recruitment process. The outcome of the Informal Complaint will be communicated to the requester in writing.

- An Informal Complaint must be made within 5 working days of notification of the decision, and will normally take place between the candidate and a representative of the PAS who had played a key role in the administration of the selection process.
- Where a candidate remains dissatisfied following any such informal discussion, he/she may adopt the formal procedures set out below.

A Formal Complaint must be made within 5 working days of either the notification of the selection decision, or the notification of the outcome of the Informal Complaint. Any extension of these time limits will only be granted in the most exceptional of circumstances and will be at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive.

- The candidate must address his/her concerns in relation to the process in writing to the Chief Executive (via email to ceomailbox@publicjobs.ie, or in writing to Chief Executive Officer, Public Appointments Service, Chapter House, 26/30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1), outlining the facts that they believe show an action taken or decision reached was wrong.
- The Formal Complaint will be investigated by a person who is completely independent of the selection process.

- The outcome of the Formal Complaint must generally be notified to the candidate within 25 working days of receipt of the request for review. If the investigation does not produce a decision within this time, PAS must keep the candidate informed of the status of the review and the reasons for the delay.

For further information on the above Review and Complaint procedures please see the *Code of Practice for Appointments to Positions in the Civil and Public Service* which is available on the website of the Commission for Public Service Appointments, www.cpsa.ie

Requests for Feedback

Feedback in relation to the selection process is available on request. There are no specific timeframes set for the provision of feedback.

Please note that the Review Process as set out in the Code of Practice is a separate process with specified timeframes that must be observed. Receipt of feedback is not required to invoke a review. It is not necessary for a candidate to compile a detailed case prior to invoking the review mechanism. The timeframe set out in the CPSA Code cannot be extended for any reason including the provision of feedback.

Candidates' Obligations

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.

Candidates in the recruitment process 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.

Contravention Code of Practice

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, if a person found guilty of an offence was, or is a candidate at a recruitment process,

- they will be disqualified as a candidate and excluded from the process;
- has been appointed to a post following the recruitment process, they will be removed from that post.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive.

When you register with publicjobs.ie or submit an application for a competition, we create a computer record in your name. Information submitted with a job application is used in processing your application. Where the services of a third party are used in processing your application, it may be required to provide them with information, however all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure the security of your data. If you are successful in the recruitment and selection competition, your application may be made available to the Human Resources section of the organisation to which you have been assigned. To make a request to access your personal data please submit your request by email to: dpo@publicjobs.ie ensuring that you describe the records you seek in the greatest possible detail to enable us to identify the relevant record(s). Information in relation to a candidate's personal data held by the PAS are set out on the Data Protection page of www.publicjobs.ie.

Protected Disclosures

The PAS Protected Disclosures Policy (including Reporting Options for all those covered by the Policy) is available at:

https://www.publicjobs.ie/documents/Public_Appointments_Service_Protected_Disclosures_Policy_2023.pdf

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify.