

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) about the Probation Qualification Framework

- 1) **When can I apply for the PQF?**
Adverts for the PQF will be advertised during May 2010 for PSO positions across the North West region. Look at the NWTC's website & the Probation Trust area you want to apply for in May. These websites will be updated regularly whenever fresh information is available. Please note not all Probation Trusts in the NW region will be taking external applicants on this occasion.
- 2) **How can I apply and what will the application process be?**
A regional team across the North West region is currently working on the recruitment process. The process is likely to begin with completion of an application form which will be available from the Probation Area Trust you wish to apply to once it has been advertised. Information about what else will be involved will be available when the posts are advertised in May.
- 3) **Can I apply for the Graduate Diploma route if I have done a Combined Honours Degree involving Criminology, Criminal Justice, Community Justice or Police Studies?**
No. As things stand to enter the PQF at the graduate entry level, your degree has to be a full degree in the above four mentioned subjects & you must have achieved it within the past 5 years. This may be reviewed so keep checking this FAQ sheet as it will be altered to reflect changes.
- 4) **Will details of vacancies be advertised on the NWTC website as well as the area trust I want to apply for?**
Yes, but keep checking both rather than relying on just one.
- 5) **Can I apply to more than one area as was the case under the former process for TPOs?**
This has yet to be decided so keep checking this FAQ sheet. The advert will also clarify about this.
- 6) **Can the NWTC website provide any information on types of voluntary work that would be useful for applicants to have?**
Individual area trusts will have details on their websites if they are seeking volunteers. In terms of applying for the PQF, you do not necessarily need to have worked directly with offenders, but experience of working with people with social difficulties such as drugs, alcohol, mental health etc is beneficial.
- 7) **Can you explain the difference between the role of a PSO and a Probation Officer?**
Both roles involve working with offenders, but the main difference is that a Probation Officer works with higher risk offenders and undertakes more complex tasks in the form of writing detailed reports for courts and parole boards etc. This is a very simplistic explanation as there is more to it than this but more detail is beyond the scope of this FAQ.
- 8) **Will I be able to download the application form and apply electronically, and can I be contacted by email when vacancies become available?**
Yes the application form and information should be downloadable & it is likely that it can be submitted electronically, but this will be confirmed in the advert. We are not in a position to notify anyone interested in applying via email so please keep checking this website & that of the Probation Trust you want to apply to.