



An tOmbudsman Seirbhísí  
Airgeadais agus Pinsean  
Financial Services and  
Pensions Ombudsman

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

**Head of IT Operations**  
**(Assistant Principal Officer)**

# Candidate Information Booklet

Closing date: 5pm on Monday, 09 February 2026



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](http://www.cpsa.ie).

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

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**W** [www.fspo.ie](http://www.fspo.ie)

# 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](http://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 2025 - 2027](#)
- [Overview of Complaints 2024](#)

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 **Head of IT Operations 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. Vacancies will be offered to candidates placed on the panel based on the Order of Merit from interview. 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 2 years 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 Head of IT Operations.

## About the Head of IT Operations (AP) Role

The IT Directorate provides the organisational, infrastructural, administrative, and information management services required by the FSPO. The Directorate is also responsible for IT-related vendor management and the performance of all critical IT-related systems/applications. The Directorate plays a key role in supporting the Senior Management Team and the wider organisation in relation to the delivery of its strategic goals, including the provision of data analytics and management information.

This role is one of two Assistant Principal Officer roles within the department.

The organisation is undergoing a significant digital transformation project in 2026, working with a team of external partners overseen by the Director of IT. The team also includes an outsourced CISO resource.

In general, an Assistant Principal can expect to be involved in managing, leading and motivating a small team, analysis of complex issues, provision of advice, managing stakeholders, delivering programmes and the management and delivery of services. 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 the achievement of challenging key performance indicators.

The Head of IT Operations (AP) will report to the Director of IT and will work in collaboration with other APs.

The Head of IT Operations (AP) will be responsible for the smooth running of the FSPO IT Operations, Cybersecurity and infrastructure, which support the business.

The Head of IT Operations will oversee the IT service desk (currently outsourced), organise security assessments, penetration tests, vulnerability scans, and manage projects to address any issues (assisted by the outsourced CISO). The role involves managing services provided by external vendors, including IT services, Managed Print Services, WAN connectivity, and telephony.

In the next three years the Head of IT Operations will oversee an infrastructure transformation programme, to support the rollout of a new Case Management System currently in development. This will include a review and refresh of hardware and software, and a cloud-first strategy.

The Head of IT Operations will work with the IT Director to establish and execute policies, procedures, and best practices, conduct formal reviews with key stakeholders, and drive continuous service improvement. The Head of IT Operations will manage a small team and oversee the work of external vendors.

They will make sure that appropriate policies, procedures and controls are in place, ensuring that there is strong oversight and robust adherence to processes.

Candidates should have significant management experience at an appropriate level, including leading teams, managing technical resources, vendor management, mentoring/coaching team members, and should also have significant experience of some or all of the following: technical infrastructure strategy, troubleshooting, managing budgets, strategic and change management.

#### **Specific key responsibilities:**

The Head of IT Operations will:

- Manage the IT service desk to ensure high-quality service delivery.
- Collaborate with an external CISO to oversee cybersecurity in:
  - identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
  - protecting the organisation
  - detecting issues
  - responding to incidents
  - recovering from incidents

- Assist the Director of IT in the Cybersecurity governance process
- Manage the IT infrastructure and operations to ensure smooth and efficient functioning
- Manage projects (internal and external) to address identified issues and changes
- Manage external procurement processes as required
- Manage services provided by external vendors, including IT services, Managed Print Services, WAN connectivity, and telephony
- Establish and execute IT policies, procedures, and best practices
- Conduct formal reviews with key stakeholders and drive continuous service improvement
- Drive and lead on strategic objectives across the organisation to promote and improve services
- Support the strategic and business planning for the IT Department and be responsible for delivery of work plan commitments, deliverables and strategic goals and objectives
- Manage the performance of reporting staff including the management of Probation and PMDS
- Keep abreast of current IT and industry trends, legislation and other developments relevant to the area through stakeholder engagement and personal learning
- Contribute to the development and achievement of the strategic goals of the FSPO generally, and divisional objectives, by participating in cross-divisional projects as required and progressing potential strategic projects
- Any other duties as assigned by the Director of IT 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.**



## Experience, Qualifications & Personal Qualities Required

### Personal Qualities Required

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

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- A problem-solving mindset
- Ability to confidently lead cross disciplinary discussions relating to the specific responsibilities of the role
- The ability to work under pressure to tight deadlines and to take a strategic approach in the delivery of key objectives
- The ability to foster a positive working relationship with colleagues and external stakeholders and to lead and work in multi-disciplinary teams
- The confidence to liaise with senior personnel, legal and other professionals and the ability to represent the organisation externally
- A commitment to the delivery of quality public service

## Required Experience, Knowledge and Skills

Candidates, on or before **9th February 2026**, must have:

- A qualification of at least Level 7 on the NFQ (or equivalent), in a relevant discipline in STEM (such as IT, Engineering, Data Analytics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Science)
- At least 5 years of experience in an IT infrastructure or operations role, including demonstrable experience in the following criteria as set out in (i) to (iv) below:
  - i. **IT Operations:** Solid background in IT operations, including experience with IT service management (ITSM) frameworks such as ITIL. Skilled in managing IT service desks, overseeing outsourced IT services, and ensuring the smooth operation of IT systems and applications. Knowledge of disaster recovery and business continuity planning.
  - ii. **Cybersecurity:** Strong understanding of cybersecurity principles and practices, including threat detection and mitigation, incident response, security assessments, penetration testing, and vulnerability management. Familiarity with industry standards and frameworks.
  - iii. **Networking Infrastructure:** Experience in implementing and managing networking infrastructure, including switches, firewalls, VPNs, and wireless networks. Experience with network monitoring and troubleshooting tools.
  - iv. **Technical Skills:** Proficiency in server and systems administration. Familiarity with scripting and automation tools is a plus.

In addition to the specific 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 1.

## Desirable Criteria

In addition to the above essential requirements, it is desirable for candidates to have:

- **Vendor Management:** Experience in managing relationships with external vendors, including negotiating contracts, monitoring performance, and ensuring service level agreements (SLAs) are met.
- **Leadership and Team Management:** Proven experience in managing and leading teams, with the ability to motivate and develop staff. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to effectively collaborate with various stakeholders.

- **Project Management:** project management skills, with the ability to lead and oversee IT projects from inception to completion. This includes planning, resource allocation, risk management, and stakeholder communication
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrable experience of building and effectively managing a wide range of internal and external relationships.
- Demonstrable experience of working under pressure, to tight deadlines, requiring analytical skills and thorough judgement.
- Excellent skills in the planning and organisation of work.
- Excellent IT skills and knowledge of business applications and tools
- Familiarity with Civil Service/Public Service structures and processes, or the ability to quickly acquire same.

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 9th February 2026, 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 monies. 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 a [insert role grade] are those, as set out below, that currently apply to [insert role grade] (Standard Scale PPC) in the public service.

### Assistant Principal Officer

**\*€81,475 – €84,475 – €87,518 – €90,569 – €93,617 – €95,375 – €98,449 LSI1 – €101,535 LSI2**

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

\*Please note that the above range will be subject to an increment increase in February 2026.

Candidates should note the following:

- Entry will be at minimum point 1 of the salary scale and will not be subject to negotiation\*\*
- The rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy
- Increments will be awarded subject to satisfactory performance, in line with Government pay policy.

## **\*\*Important Note for candidates currently in civil or public service employment**

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 for 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 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 (including a daily lunch break of 1 hour and 15 minutes). 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 their duties subject to the limits set down in the working time regulations. The rate of renumeration 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 exhaustive 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**

Conscia will be managing all aspects of the recruitment process on behalf of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman.

All candidates should visit <https://www.consciatalent.com/FSPO> 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 candidate's specific relevant personal experience.

Completed application forms should be uploaded at <https://www.consciatalent.com/FSPO> with 'Application for the position of Head of IT Operations (AP)' in the subject line.

Only applications fully submitted online will be accepted into the campaign.

#### **Closing Date**

Applications must be submitted by email to arrive by **5pm on Monday 9 February 2026**. Applications will not be accepted after the closing time/date.

## Selection Process

The selection process may include the following:

- Shortlisting of candidates based on the information contained in their application
- An in-person written exercise/assessment
- A technical test/presentation/other exercise as deemed appropriate
- Interview(s), either online or in person. The anticipated dates for the first round of interviews are between 25 and 27 February 2026.

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 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 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 [hr@fspo.ie](mailto:hr@fspo.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 the 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 employers (where you have listed them as your referees); recruiters (where your application is being handled by a recruiter); outsourced service providers who assist FSPO with recruitment initiatives and campaigns. 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](mailto:dataprotection@fspo.ie). Please see our full [Privacy Notice](#).

# Appendix 1 – Key Competencies

Key competencies for effective performance at Assistant Principal Officer level:



# 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