



JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE UKVRPHS AND FPH



APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST/ CONSULTANT POSTS

The UKVRPHS was established in 2003 to provide a regulatory framework for those individuals practising as specialists/consultants in public health, a level of practice equivalent to consultants in public health medicine. Registration with the UKVRPHS is comparable to registration with the GMC Specialist Register for public health physicians or the GDC Specialist List in dental public health for dentists.

The Faculty of Public Health, as the standard setting body for public health, has been involved in the development of the UKVRPHS and was consulted by the Department of Health during the development of the Agenda for Change profile for public health consultant posts. The Faculty provides advice to employers and others on the whole appointments process for senior public health posts at consultant level in the UK. These senior public health roles are for those who have completed higher specialist training in public health or equivalent and are on the GMC Specialist Register/GDC Specialist List in dental public health/UK Voluntary Register for Public Health Specialists.

Through the Department of Health Agenda for Change process, a nationally agreed profile was developed for the posts of specialists/consultants in public health. This was set at Agenda for Change Band 8(d) or 9 and has, as a requirement, the need for advanced theoretical and practical knowledge as defined and accredited by the Faculty. The Faculty provides guidance on the content of consultant level job descriptions and person specifications, including those for DsPH, which specify that inclusion in the GMC Specialist Register/GDC Specialist List/UKVRPHS is an essential requirement for these posts.

Specimen job descriptions/person specifications at various levels and associated guidance are on the Faculty's web site at:
http://www.fph.org.uk/prof_affairs/guidance_for_public_health_appointments/default.asp

In addition, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Faculty provides trained external assessors to take part in the whole selection process via a formally constituted Advisory Appointments Committee (AAC). In Scotland a similar function is performed through the provision of representatives from the National Panel. The Faculty and the Department of Health recommend that this process is adopted to ensure standards are maintained.

Whilst registration with the GMC Specialist Register/GDC Specialist List in dental public health/UKVRPHS does not entitle an individual to be shortlisted for or appointed to a post as a specialist/consultant in public health, any individual who is appointed to such a post must hold a current and appropriate professional specialist registration. Applicants who are in the process of applying for specialist registration fall into several categories and may be eligible to apply for consultant posts on provision of appropriate documentary evidence, details of which are available from the Faculty's web site.

Candidates who have been appointed through the proper process, to a post of specialist/consultant in public health within the NHS, can expect to be remunerated at the level of Agenda for Change 8(d) or 9.