



The Planning
Inspectorate



Civil Service



Band 1 Planning Inspector

The main purpose of a Band 1 Planning Inspector's role is to deliver regular, high-quality appeal decisions in a timely manner. To achieve this, you will:

- Work independently, from home, albeit with the support of your manager, case officer and other colleagues;
- Determine an appropriate number of lower-level appeals[^] each week, comprising mainly of those made by written representations. This involves analysing complex information from a range of sources, identifying the key issues for consideration; clarifying uncertainty through appropriate questioning (at public hearings – see below); and writing authoritative, objective and well-reasoned decisions within expected timescales;
- Conduct public hearings into certain appeal proposals (following appropriate training);
- Be comfortable interacting with, and gaining the confidence of, a wide range of people from all sorts of backgrounds and with different levels of experience of the planning system;
- Keep up-to-date with changes to, and be able to properly apply to your casework, relevant planning guidance, policy (local and national) and legislation;
- Maintain and develop your professional skills, knowledge and capability by undertaking appropriate training and development;

[^]these will be mainly planning appeals but opportunities may arise to undertake training for enforcement and/or specialist casework such as Tree Preservation Order or High Hedge appeals.

Essential Criteria

- Full / Chartered Membership of a professional body* relevant to the work of a Planning Inspector;
- A willingness and ability to travel extensively and frequently across England. Most appeals require site visits and the majority of our work tends to be in London and the South East. Regular travel to this area is therefore required with some nights away from home, if you are based further afield.
- Ability to analyse and to recall large amounts of information, evidence and argument; to interpret and to apply policies; and to draw out quickly the main issues requiring your consideration;
- Ability to write clearly, accurately and concisely in order to reach logical, convincing, well-reasoned and evidence-based conclusions;
- Self-motivated and self-reliant such that you can plan, manage your time and deliver your work with minimal oversight;
- Effective interpersonal and verbal communication skills, with the ability to interact sensitively and empathetically with a diverse range of people;
- Ability to conduct fair and inclusive public events, with authority, involving those holding conflicting views about development proposals.