



Planning
Inspectorate

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Birmingham, showing a dense urban landscape with a mix of residential and commercial buildings. A purple and grey train is visible on tracks in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Inspector Careers

Band 1 Planning Inspectors

Q&A Session



1. About the Planning Inspectorate
2. About the opportunity
3. What our Inspectors say
4. Application tips
5. Q&A

Questions?

- Ask us a question via the Q&A panel in Microsoft Teams.
- Upvote the questions you'd most like answered.
- You can opt to keep your question anonymous via the checkbox.
- We will respond to questions during the Q&A session.



About the Planning Inspectorate

- Executive agency of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Shaping the planning system for over 100 years
- Around 900 staff, headquarters in Bristol
- Around 450 Inspectors based across England
- Five service areas

Values:

Open | Fair | Impartial | Customer Focused





The role of a Band 1 Planning Inspector

Fair, open and impartial decision making

Planning inspectors are independent decision makers. As a Band 1 Planning Inspector you will:

- Analyse evidence provided by appellants and councils and other interested parties
- Carry out site visits across England to inform your decision
- Write appeal decisions based on the evidence provided
- Conduct hearings after specific training

Appeal decisions directly influence where and how communities develop.





Varied career backgrounds

We recruit from a range of backgrounds



Consultancy



Legal



Architecture



Civil Service



Local
Government



Skills and experience

Of a successful Inspector

- ✓ Must have a full or chartered membership of a professional body relevant to the role
- ✓ Confident, motivated and can work independently
- ✓ Ability to analyse complex information, to interpret and apply policies using strong analytical skills and evidence-based reasoning
- ✓ Ability to draw out the main issues quickly that require consideration
- ✓ Time management skills
- ✓ Ability to write clearly, accurately and concisely in order to reach well-reasoned conclusions
- ✓ Willingness to travel widely for casework events
- ✓ Confidence to facilitate and manage public events



See the job pack
for a full list



- Comprehensive three-week induction training (including in-person in various cities and online)
- Mentoring and support by dedicated inspector trainers and ongoing assessment of your work from other experienced inspectors
- Further training on specialisms and more complex casework
- Regular learning opportunities



Views from our Inspectors



Tips for success in
your application



About the opportunity



12+ roles
available



home-based
(with travel)



Full time or
part time

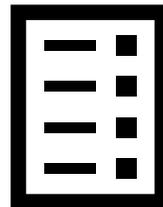
Salary (starting at Band 1): £48,775 - £57,893 on completion of training

Benefits: civil service pension, professional membership fee and much more



Your CV should:

- Link experience directly to essential criteria
- Use active verbs: e.g. “analysed”, “evaluated”, “led”, “assessed”
- Focus on outcomes and impact, not just responsibilities



Your 1,000-word personal statement is your biggest opportunity:

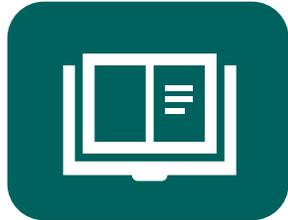
- Address each essential criterion with evidence
- Use the STAR approach (Situation, Task, Action, Result)
- Be specific: what you did, how you did it, what changed





The assessment process

What happens after you apply



**Application & verbal
reasoning test**

- Online test assessing interpretation of written information
- Practice tests available at: [Civil Service practice tests](#)



**Sift stage
(results by w/c 30th
March 2026)**

- Panel assesses your CV and personal statement against essential criteria



**Interview stage
(13th-24th April 2026)**

- In-person interview and timed written assessment
- Your interview will be assessed behaviour questions (using Civil Service Success Profiles)



Questions



Thank you for attending!

Feedback and further information



Please complete the evaluation form

Further information:

- [Apply at Civil Service Jobs](#)
- [Planning Inspectorate careers page](#)

See the links in the Q&A

