

Police Education Qualification Framework (PEQF)

Why do we need to change?

One of the fundamental requirements of a profession is discretion; the basis on which practitioners are allowed to exercise a high degree of individual autonomy and independence of judgement.

The criteria which define professional discretion vary, but common core elements are:

- a specialist knowledge base
- a distinct ethical dimension
- continuing professional development (CPD) requirements, and
- standards of education

Policing did not have consistent, national education levels for all policing roles or ranks which reflect its current and future challenges, or an entry level qualification that would be considered commensurate with that of a profession.

There is wide ranging, variable and inconsistent practice in terms of the implementation, assessment and accreditation of initial police education across the 43 forces. Such inconsistency risks undermining perceptions of the professionalism of the police service and policing remaining out of kilter with other professions with regard to its formal education standards.

What are the next steps?

- The College of Policing is providing practical implementation support, by means of a PEQF Implementation Team to support forces through the various phases of PEQF implementation.
- Further consultation is taking place on the requirements for senior ranks and specialist roles for developing appropriate qualifications and programmes.

What is the PEQF? The PEQF is a new, professional framework for the education of police officers and staff. Based upon a new, modern curriculum, this framework is professionally transformative, covering a breadth, depth and range of professional training and education. It includes a degree for the role of police constable that is not to be found in any previous national specifications of the training required for effective performance of that role. This supports the APCC/NPCC Policing Vision, “By 2025 policing will be a profession with a more representative workforce that will align the right skills, powers and experience to meet challenging requirements”.

What has been achieved so far?

The College of Policing, as the professional body for the police service, has worked with all key stakeholder groups including staff associations, police force representatives, as well as higher education partners, and listened to feedback from the consultation to develop the [PEQF and supporting resources](#). The three [new entry routes into the policing](#) profession at the rank of **police constable** are:

- A **degree-level apprenticeship** entry route, based upon achievement of a degree in professional policing practice
- A **degree-holder** entry programme for those who have attained a degree in any subject area
- A **pre-join** knowledge-based degree in professional policing, to be achieved prior to formal recruitment to the police service

A [PCSO Apprenticeship standard](#) has also been developed where we anticipate early adopter forces will be able to offer places from late spring/early summer 2018.

A [Professional Development Platform](#) has been developed to aid recognition of prior learning (RPL) for existing officers and staff.