



The Public Sector in Brighton & Hove

This leaflet looks at employment in the Public Sector in Brighton & Hove. Jobs include police and customs officers, administrators and managers, teachers and teaching assistants. There are opportunities to work in areas like trading standards, environmental health, planning, public relations or marketing. Public sector employers include national and local government departments, services such as the army, police and fire service and schools, colleges and universities.

A Who works in the Public Sector?

In Brighton & Hove there are approximately 500 Public Sector business units with around 19,000 employees. Across Sussex as a whole there are around 86,000 Public Sector jobs.

Figure 1: Employment in the Public Sector

	Brighton & Hove	Sussex
Number of business units	500	2,300
Number of employees	19,100	86,400

Source: ABI 2007 and APS April-June 2006.

Ways of working in the sector

The majority of employees work on a full-time basis, although around four out of ten jobs are part time. A significant proportion of employees in the Public Sector work "overtime"; hours additional to their normal working time, either paid or unpaid.

There are also often opportunities to work in a flexible way, for example during school hours or in term time only.

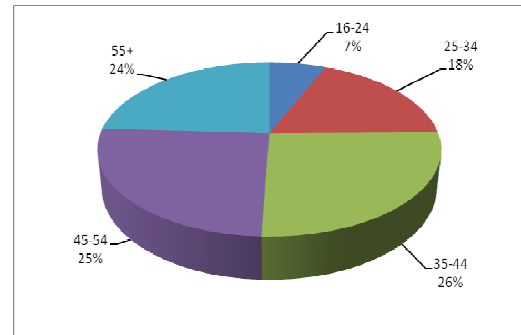
Figure 2: Working patterns in the Public Sector

	% of employees
Full-time	63
Part-time	37
Overtime	39
Shifts	7
Flexi-time	14

Source: APS April-June 2006.

Age Profile

Figure 3: Age profile of people working in the Public Sector



Source: APS April-June 2006.

B Qualifications, skills and occupations

Qualifications explained

Qualification levels used in this leaflet are based on both academic and vocational qualifications. The levels used are:

Figure 4: Qualification types

Qualification type	Equivalent to
No qualifications	No qualifications
Level 1	1 or more GCSEs at any grade
Level 2	5 or more GCSEs (grade A – C)
Level 3	2 or more A Levels
Level 4 or above	First degree level or above

What qualifications are needed?

The Public Sector includes many professional roles, such as teaching, which often require qualifications to enter. Qualifications may also be expected by employers for some other roles in the sector (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Typical entry requirements

Occupation	Entry requirements
Teachers	Entry requires a Bachelor of Education or other relevant degree followed by a Postgraduate Certificate of Education. Professional qualifications are required for some roles.
Teaching Assistants	Academic qualifications are usually required but entry is sometimes possible with relevant experience.
Civil Service Administrators	Entry is possible with GCSEs and/or relevant practical experience.
Police Officers	There are no academic requirements for entry but graduates may apply for accelerated promotion.
Soldiers	Most positions do not require academic qualifications for entry.
Town Planners	Entrants usually possess either an accredited degree or postgraduate qualification.



What else are employers interested in?

Within the Public Sector, potential employers may be particularly interested in new employees who have or can show that they have technical, team working, communication or customer handling skills, as well as those who can demonstrate that they are good at managing people or projects. Good literacy and numeracy skills are also likely to be important.

Occupations in the public sector

Figure 6 shows the levels of qualifications people working in key Public Sector occupations have. Six out of ten employees have a degree level qualification and most have at least Level 2 qualifications.

There are however, some roles, such as playground supervisors, teaching assistants and soldiers where qualifications are not required although qualifications often help people who want to progress to higher level occupations in the future. This is true in the police for example, where graduates may apply for accelerated promotion.

Figure 6: Key Public Sector occupations and qualifications of people in these occupations

	No. Of employees in the Public Sector in B&H	% with type of qualification		
		Level 4+	Level 2 & 3	Below Level 2
Teachers	5,420	91	9	0
Teaching assistants	1,660	22	75	4
Civil service administrators	570	48	52	0
Police officers	550	31	69	0
Playground supervisors	340	15	45	40
Soldiers	270	22	56	22
School secretaries	270	15	75	10
Public services assistants	250	45	42	13
Civil service officers	190	30	70	0
Local government senior managers	170	53	47	0
Caretakers	130	0	62	39
Town planners	60	100	0	0

Source: APS April-June 2006.

What other jobs are there in the Public Sector?

You don't have to be a teacher or police officer to work in the Public Sector, as there are plenty of opportunities to work in other jobs which are not specific to this area of work. For example, there are around 10,500 people in the Public Sector in Brighton & Hove working in other occupations such as general

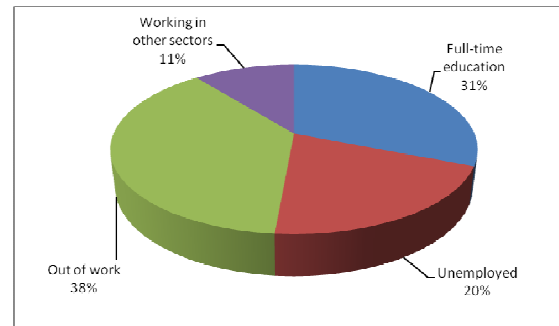
office assistants, PAs and secretaries, accounts clerks and cleaners.

For more information on the different careers available, visit the following websites:

<http://www.connexions-direct.com/Jobs4u> or <http://jobseekers.direct.gov.uk/subjectmenu.aspx?sessionid=514621e5-f90c-4b94-998d-3e01122cea52&pid=1&o=3>

Where do Public Sector employees come from?

Figure 7: What did people do before they joined the Public Sector?

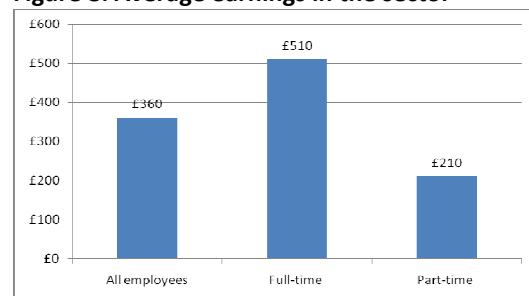


Source: APS April – June 2006. Note: Out of work = neither in employment nor unemployed i.e. caring for children, long term sick, retired etc.

C How much do people earn in the sector?

The average gross weekly pay for all employees in the Public Sector in Brighton & Hove is around £360 (before tax etc), equivalent to a salary of around £18,700 per year. Full-time Public Sector workers in Brighton & Hove earn on average £510 (before tax etc), per week or £26,520 per year. The average gross weekly pay for part-time workers is £210, equivalent to £10,920 per year¹.

Figure 8: Average earnings in the sector



Source: Local level sector estimates based on regional and local data from ASHE 2008.

What people earn when they enter full-time work in the Public Sector Brighton & Hove depends on the job that they do. However, some people could expect

¹ Note: these figures are based on local average earnings and South East earnings for the Public Sector from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.



weekly pay of around £330 rising to around £670 per week for more skilled and experienced employees.

D How many job vacancies are there?

On average Jobcentre Plus are notified of around 110 job vacancies in the Public Sector in Brighton & Hove each month. This figure is around 390 across Sussex as a whole.

Figure 9: Notified Jobcentre Plus vacancies

	Brighton & Hove	Sussex	South East
Average number of vacancies each month (Oct 08 - Sept 09)	110	390	2,180

Source: Jobcentre Plus Vacancies

Further, not all vacancies in the Public Sector are listed with Jobcentre Plus. Employers may advertise vacancies on their website or in newspapers or magazines. There are also some specialist Public Sector employment websites including Jobs Go Public (www.jobsgopublic.com), Sussex Police (www.sussex.police.uk/recruitment), Brighton & Hove City Council (<https://jobs.brighton-hove.gov.uk>) and Public Sector Careers (www.publicsectorcareers.org)².

How competitive is the sector?

Around 8% of Public Sector employers have vacancies that they are finding difficult to fill. This is similar to the average for all types of employer (7%) and suggests that Public Sector employers are generally able to find the staff that they need but that some may have a strong interest in trying to attract new staff members.

E What might happen in the future?

In the past

Over the last 10 years employment in the Public Sector has increased in Brighton & Hove by 26% or around 4,000 jobs.

In the future

It's difficult to predict but forecasts suggest that employment in the Public Sector may decline over the next couple of years. However, the sector is expected to continue to be an important source of employment over the longer term.

F What are the major employers in the Public Sector in this area?

The table below gives examples of large employers in the sector in Brighton & Hove.

Figure 10: Large Public Sector employers in Brighton & Hove

Employer	Type of Service	No. of employees
Brighton & Hove City Council	Council	9,000
University of Sussex	University	2,100
University of Brighton	University	2,000
Northbrook College	Further & Higher Education college	500-1,000
City College Brighton & Hove	Further & Higher Education college	950
Vardean College	College	251-500
Royal Sussex Co. Territorial Army Centre	Armed services	100-250
Brighton Institute of Modern Music	Music	100-250
St Johns School & College	Education for students with special needs	100-250
The Pensions Regulator	National government	100-250

Source: Brighton & Hove Business Directory.

² A wide range of recruitment sites are available. These are just some examples.

