

JUSTICE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL SERVICES SECTORS FACT SHEET - NORTHERN IRELAND

OVERVIEW AND PROSPECTS



These sectors cover a wide range of organisations all working towards the same broad purpose - the creation and maintenance of a safe, just and stable society. In Northern Ireland the sector employs approximately 21,000¹ people which accounts for 2% of the economy. People in the sector work across eight major strands of activity including Policing and Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, Legal Services, Forensic Science, Prosecution Services, Courts and Tribunals, Custodial Care and Community Justice.

OCCUPATIONS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY

Typical jobs	Number of
Administrative and secretarial roles	2,436
Forensic scientists	146
Judge	69
Police constable	5,464
Police support staff	1,100
Prison service staff	2,367
Probation staff	262
Public prosecutor	181
Firefighter	1,924
Total	13,949

Source: Skills for Justice Online LMI Matrix and Northern Ireland Employer Skills Survey.

According to the Skills for Justice 2011 Employer Skills Survey there will continue to be an increase in the number of paralegals. This is corroborated by the Labour Force Survey data that shows the number of 'Legal Associate Professionals' has more than doubled over the past 10 years. (Source: Labour Force Survey April 2009-March 2010.)

¹ Skills for Justice 2010 Sector Skills Assessment: Employment and Skills in Northern Ireland – Justice and Community Safety sector.

SKILLS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are various routes of entry into the Justice sector. The skills and qualifications needed vary by occupation and range from NVQs (e.g. some roles in Youth Justice and in Probation) and degrees (e.g. Social Work) to professional qualifications (e.g. professional qualification in Law for Public Prosecutors). However the operational roles such as police and prison officers have no formal entry requirements as they are trained to a high standard once recruited.

New employees receive job specific training and continuing professional development throughout their careers. This training can be delivered by institutions such as the Police and Prison Service Colleges.



For more information on skills and entry requirements go to www.skillsforjustice.com

CURRENT VACANCIES AND SKILL SHORTAGES

The Skills for Justice 2011 Employer Skills Survey identifies the following:

- An increase in the need for Restorative Practice and qualified practitioners.
- Greater need for leadership and management and change management skills.
- IT and computing skills - one of the key issues identified by employers in relation to IT and computing skills was the constant progression of newer systems within the IT industry. Increasingly, those areas that were not traditionally touched by IT are seeing new developments over-taking the skills of employees used to more manual and less technological approaches.
- Skills associated with multi-agency working are of great and increasing importance.
- The recession has had a major impact on the Public Sector, including employers in these sectors, which is having an impact on many of the job roles.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN NORTHERN IRELAND²...

- 52% of the Justice sector workforce is male and 48% is female.
- Very few workers in the sector are self-employed.
- The majority of employees (85%) work full-time.
- 96% are permanent staff.
- Average hours worked are 37 - 40 a week.
- Some roles such as Prison Officer and Police Officer work shift patterns.
- The starting salary for a Police Officer is £22, 680. After training this rises to £25, 317 a year.

USEFUL LINKS

Careers Service NI	Provides an impartial all-age careers information, advice and guidance service: www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers
Skills for Justice	Sector Skills Council for the Justice sector: www.skillsforjustice.com/careers
JobCentre Online	Contains vacancies currently notified to Jobs & Benefits offices: www.jobcentreonline.com
NI Civil Service Recruitment Gateway	Recruitment gateway for Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office: www.irecruit.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk/

Information provided by Skills for Justice. Last updated April 2011. To check that this is the most up to date fact sheet go to www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers

² Skills for Justice 2010 Sector Skills Assessment: Employment and Skills in Northern Ireland – Justice and Community Safety sector.