APPLICATION FORM

**Grade IV, Assistant Staff Officer**

**National Forensic Mental Health Service**

**NFMHSGIV02**

* Please read the Job Specification which provides useful information about the requirements of this role.
* Please ensure you download, read and fully understand the ‘Additional Campaign Information’ document specific to this campaign that is available on <http://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job_search/>.

# Please ensure you read the instructions for the completion of this Application Form and complete all areas, including the competency questions section, in full. Failure to complete all areas of the Application Form will result in you not being brought forward to the interview stage of the selection process.

* If you are submitting your application form via email we will accept the application form unsigned but you will be required to sign the General Declaration at interview should you be invited to one.
* Candidates should note that there can be a time delay in receiving email applications. We recommend that applicants wishing to return an application by email should allow a minimum of 1 hour for their application to arrive by **12pm on Wednesday 6th August 2025**. Applications will not be accepted after this date and time, no exceptions will be made.
* It is preferable that Application Forms are typed.
* Applications must be submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF document format only. Applications stored on personal online storage sites, e.g. Onedrive, Cloud, Dropbox, Google Drive etc will not be accepted. Applications submitted in other file formats e.g. Google Docs will not be accepted. Please pay particular attention to ensure that your application is attached as an attachment (not a link to an online storage site e.g. Google Drive) when emailing your application.
* In relation to details of employment, if the space provided is insufficient, please attach additional pages ensuring to use the same format.
* Should you be invited for interview, you may take a 'hard' copy (ie. paper copy) of your Application Form with you. Mobile devices are not permitted for use during your interview.
* The Health Service Executive will run this campaign in compliance with the Code of Practice prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA). The Codes of Practice are available on the CPSA website [www.cpsa.ie](http://www.cpsa.ie/). Further information is also available in the Additional Campaign Information document.
* The Health Service Executive is an Equal Opportunities Employer.
* The Health Service Executive recognises its responsibilities under the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Closing Date & Time** | **Wednesday 6th August 2025 @ 12.00** |
| **Return Application Forms To** | [recruitment.nfmhs@hse.ie](mailto:recruitment.nfmhs@hse.ie) using the subject line **NFMHS Grade IV, Assistant Staff Officer** – **NFMHSGIV02**  Please note that you must submit your application form via email only.  Email applications will receive a response within 2 working days, which will let you know that we received your email. If you have not received an email response within 5 working days, we highly recommend that you contact the HR via email to [recruitment.nfmhs@hse.ie](mailto:recruitment.nfmhs@hse.ie) to verify that your email has been received. |
| **Anticipated Interview Date(s)** | Proposed interview dates will be indicated at a later stage. Please note you may be called forward for interview at short notice. |

**APPLICANT DETAILS**

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| Position Applied For: | **Grade IV, Assistant Staff Officer** |
| Campaign Reference No.: | **NFMHSGIV02** |
| **Personal Details** |  |
|  |  |
| First Name: |  |
| Last Name: |  |
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| Postal Address for Correspondence: |  |
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| Mobile Telephone **(mandatory)**: |  |
| Contact Telephone No. 2: |  |

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| Email Address **(mandatory)**:  (You may provide more than one) |  |
| Drivers Licence*:*  (Please state type & category) |
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**European Economic Area (EEA)**

Are you an EEA (European Economic Area) National? Yes  No

**If you are a non-EEA citizen you must provide the requested documentation to support your application**. Please see Appendix 2 of the ‘Additional Campaign Information’ document for further information and for a definition of an EEA National.

Have you lived outside of the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland for 6 months or more from the date of your 16th birthday? Yes  No

Please note any candidate who is successful and offered a post, it will be mandatory to provide security clearance from each jurisdiction you have resided in. Please see Appendix 3 on the Additional Campaign Information for further information.

In order to help us gauge the efficiency of our advertising strategy for this campaign, we would appreciate if you indicated below where you saw the campaign advertised. *+*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HSE Website |  |
| Word of mouth – my manager/colleague |  |
| LinkedIn |  |
| Notification from HSE Talent Pool |  |
| Other – please say which |  |

*+ More than one indication is allowed.*

1. **Current Contractual Status**
2. **I am currently a HSE Employee**

**Yes**  **No**

1. **I am currently a Tusla Employee**

**Yes**  **No**

If you answered Yes to the above question, please choose the option below which best matches your current contractual status:

**I have a permanent contract**

**Or**

**I have a temporary contract**

**QUALIFICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**Please indicate below how your professional experience meets the eligibility criteria for this post.**

**This section will be assessed by a board of Senior Managers to consider your experience as it is relevant to the eligibility criteria.**

* **Please note that if you omit information in this section pertinent to the eligibility criteria you may be deemed ineligible and subsequently not called forward to interview.**
* **Short listing may occur based on the information provided here and in the other areas of this application form.**
* **Please complete each section below. As you complete each section we recognise there will be overlap in the employer and date periods.**

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| 1. **Please outline your satisfactory experience as a Clerical Officer in the HSE, TUSLA** | |
| **Date(s) from – Date(s) to** | **Employer(s) & Department Name** |
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**OR**

1. **Please indicate that you have obtained a pass (Grade D) in at least five subjects from the approved list of subjects in the Department of Education Leaving Certificate Examination, including Mathematics and English or Irish1. Candidates should have obtained at least Grade C on higher level papers in three subjects in that examination.**

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| **SUBJECT** | **GRADE** | **HIGHER/ORDINARY/FOUNDATION LEVEL PAPERS(S)** | **OTHER SUBJECTS** | **GRADE** | **HIGHER/ORDINARY/FOUNDATION LEVEL PAPERS(S)** |
| **Mathematics** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **AND** | | | | | |
| **English** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **OR** | | | | | |
| **Irish** |  |  |  |  |  |

**Year: School/College attended:**

*Note1: Candidates must achieve a pass in Ordinary or Higher level papers. A pass in a foundation level paper is not acceptable. Candidates must have achieved these grades on the Leaving Certificate Established programme or the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme. The Leaving Certification Applied Programme does not fulfill the eligibility criteria.*

**OR**

1. **Please indicate that you have completed a relevant examination at a comparable standard in any equivalent examination in another jurisdiction**

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| **Date of Award**  **(00/00/00)** | **College / Educational Institution** | **Name of Course** | **Award** |
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**OR**

1. **Please indicate that you hold a comparable and relevant third level qualification of at least level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework maintained by Qualifications and Quality Ireland, (QQI).**

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| **Date of Award (00/00/00)** | **College / Educational Institution** | **Name of Course** | **Award** |
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**EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Please list your second level and any (additional) third level educational achievements.**

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| **Dates**    **From/To** | **Educational Institution** | **Conferring**  **Body** | **Course of Study** | **Qualification Achieved** | **Grades Achieved** |
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### CAREER OVERVIEW

Please ensure your full career history is clearly outlined below (e.g. if you took a career break, spent time out of work, please include this information so there are **no gaps in your career history** from when you left full-time education to present date).

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| **From (DD/MM/YY)** | **To (DD/MM/YY)** | **Title** | **Employer** |
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**Detailed Career History - please begin by listing the most recent first.**

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| **Job Title: Grade/ Management Level (if applicable):** | |
| **Employer(s) & Department Name:** | |
| **From (MM/YY):** | **To (MM/YY):** |
| **Main Roles & Responsibilities:** | |

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| **Job Title: Grade/ Management Level (if applicable):** | |
| **Employer(s) & Department Name:** | |
| **From (MM/YY):** | **To (MM/YY):** |
| **Main Roles & Responsibilities:** | |

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| --- | --- |
| **Job Title: Grade/ Management Level (if applicable):** | |
| **Employer(s) & Department Name:** | |
| **From (MM/YY):** | **To (MM/YY):** |
| **Main Roles & Responsibilities:** | |

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| --- | --- |
| **Job Title: Grade/ Management Level (if applicable):** | |
| **Employer(s) & Department Name:** | |
| **From (MM/YY** | **To (MM/YY):** |
| **Main Roles & Responsibilities:** | |

### Competency Questions

**In the spaces below, briefly describe what you consider to be a good example of demonstrating your ability in each of the skill areas. A summary definition of each skill area is provided for your information. This is a summary of what we mean by each skill heading. Remember anything you say may be used as part of a shortlisting/ranking exercise and may be discussed in more depth at interview**, **should you be called to one.**

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| **1. Planning and Managing Resources**  It is important that the Assistant Staff Officer Grade IV demonstrates excellent planning and organisational skills including using computer technology effectively. S/he demonstrates the ability to manage deadlines and effectively handle multiple tasks. S/he demonstrates the ability to manage within allocated resources and demonstrates a capacity to respond to changes in a plan.  *In the space below, please give an example of a situation where you best demonstrated your ability in this area.* |
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| **2.** **Team Working including a Commitment to Providing a Quality Service**  It is important that a Grade IV works effectively and helpfully as a member of a wider team, supports others and treats all team members with dignity and respect. S/he reacts constructively to setbacks and is able to both receive feedback. S/he maintains effective working relationships by understanding and valuing individuals and their respective roles. S/he should demonstrate awareness and appreciation of the service user and a commitment to promoting and maintaining high work standards. S/He should demonstrate a commitment to delivering quality service to patients.  In the space below, please give an example of a situation where you best demonstrated your ability in this area. |
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| **3.** **Evaluating Information, Problem Solving & Decision Making**  An effective Assistant Staff Officer Grade IV demonstrates flexibility, problem solving and initiative skills including the ability to adapt to change. S/he demonstrates the ability to appropriately analyse and interpret information, develop solutions and contribute to decisions quickly and accurately as appropriate. S/he demonstrates the ability to recognise when it is appropriate to refer decisions to a higher level of management.  *In the space below, please give an example of a situation where you demonstrated your ability in this area.* |
|  |

**General Declaration**

It is important that you read this Declaration carefully.

**Part 1:** Obligations Placed on Candidates who participate in The Recruitment Process.

The Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Amendment Act 2013 makes very specific provisions in relation to the responsibilities placed on candidates who participate in recruitment campaigns and these are detailed in Section 4 of the Code of Practice issued under the Act.

These obligations are as follows:

Any canvassing by or on behalf of candidates shall result in disqualification and exclusion from the recruitment process. Candidates shall not:

* knowingly or recklessly make a false or a misleading application
* knowingly or recklessly provide false information or documentation
* canvass any person with or without inducements
* impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process
* knowingly or maliciously obstruct or interfere with the recruitment process
* knowingly and without lawful authority take any action that could result in the compromising of any test material or of any evaluation of it
* interfere with or compromise the process in any way

Any person who contravenes the above provisions, or who assists another person in contravening the above provisions, shall be guilty of an offence.

It is the policy of the HSE to report any such above contraventions to An Garda Siochana.

In addition, where a person found guilty of an offence was or is a candidate at a recruitment / selection process, then, in accordance with the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Amendment Act 2013.

* where he / she has not been appointed to a post, he / shall be disqualified as a candidate; and
* where he / she has been appointed as a result of that process, he / she shall forfeit that appointment

**Part 2**

**Declaration:** “I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief there is nothing in relation to my conduct, character or personal background of any nature that would adversely affect the position of trust in which I would be placed by virtue of my appointment to this position. I hereby confirm my irrevocable consent to the Health Service Executive to the making of such enquiries, as the Health Service Executive deems necessary in respect of my suitability for the post in respect of which this application is made.

I hereby accept and confirm the entitlement of the Health Service Executive to reject my application or terminate my employment (in the event of a contract of employment having been entered into) if I have omitted to furnish the Health Service Executive with any information relevant to my application or to my continued employment with the Health Service Executive or where I have made any false statement or misrepresentation relevant to this application or my continuing employment with the Health Service Executive.

Furthermore, I hereby declare that all the particulars furnished in connection with this application are true, and that I am aware of the qualifications and particulars for this position. I understand that I may be required to submit documentary evidence in support of any particulars given by me on my Application Form. I understand that any false or misleading information submitted by me will render me liable to automatic disqualification or render me liable to dismissal, if employed.”

**Signed:**

*(Name of Applicant)*

**Date:**

NB: If you are submitting your application form via email we will accept the application form unsigned but you will be required to sign the Declaration at interview should you be invited to one. Failure to sign this declaration at interview will render it invalid.

### REFERENCES

Please give three referees (including your current employer). Please ensure that the referees you provide are from a professional perspective. We retain the right to contact all previous employers.

Do you wish us to contact you prior to contacting your referees? Yes  / No

**1. Name and Job Title of Referee:**

**Dates From-To (MM/YY- MM/YY):**

**Professional Relationship to Candidate:**

**Postal Address:**

**Telephone Contact Details:** Mobile: Landline:

**Email Address:**

**2. Name and Job Title of Referee:**

**Dates From-To (MM/YY- MM/YY):**

**Professional Relationship to Candidate:**

**Postal Address:**

**Telephone Contact Details:** Mobile: Landline:

**Email Address:**

**3. Name and Job Title of Referee:**

**Dates From-To (MM/YY- MM/YY):**

**Professional Relationship to Candidate:**

**Postal Address:**

**Telephone Contact Details:** Mobile: Landline

**Email Address:**

### APPLICANT CHECKLIST

If all required details / documentation (as below) are not submitted with your application we will be unable to process your application to the next stage of the process i.e. short listing / interview.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mobile Telephone Number  Email Address  Postal Address |  | **Mandatory** |
| That the information you have provided in the Qualification/ Eligibility Criteria section clearly shows how your qualifications/ experience match the requirements. Dates should be clearly indicated i.e. DD/MM/YY, qualification titles etc. |  |
| Competency Questions, each question must be fully completed |  |
| Work Permit Documentation (if relevant to non-EEA applicants). Please refer to Appendix 2 of the Additional Campaign information document for details of documentation required. |  |
| Application is submitted by the closing date and time and that you have used the campaign reference in the subject line of your email. |  |
| That you have downloaded and saved the Job Specification and Additional Campaign Information for future reference. | | |

**APPENDIX 1 – GUIDE TO COMPLETING COMPETENCY QUESTIONS**

In the Competency Questions section, you are required to describe some of your personal achievements to date that demonstrate certain necessary skills and qualities required for the position. All question areas must be completed. The instructions below will help you to complete your answers and will also be of valuable help for you when preparing for interview.

For each question area, you are given a description of a skill or quality. You are then asked to describe a situation, from your own experience, which you think is the best example of where **you** have demonstrated your ability in this area. It is essential that you describe how **you** demonstrated the skill or quality in question.

The information you present here may be used to help structure your interview, should you be invited to one. It may also form part of a ranking exercise process. This means that a ranking board will ‘rank’ applicants based on information put forward in your Application Form. Interviews may be held on a phased basis, inviting applicants to interview based on the position held in the ranking exercise. A primary panel will be formed of candidates successful in the first phase of interviews. If subsequent interviews are held candidates successful at these interviews will be added to the end of the primary panel and will be listed with a lower order of merit.

Therefore, it is important to compose your replies carefully in this section and to structure your answer so that you give specific information about what **you** have done.

For each example please include the following:

**(a)** **The nature of the task, problem or objective;**

**(b) What you actually did and how you demonstrated the skill or quality (and, where appropriate, the date you demonstrated it);**

**(c) The outcome or result of the situation and your estimate of the proportion of credit you can claim for the outcome.**

Competency questions are designed to help you to present **relevant evidence** in order that decision makers can evaluate how well you ‘fit’ the requirements of a particular role. Relevant evidence is usually drawn from your work experience and the way in which you have accomplished a range of activities. Those involved in screening the applications will be evaluating the information you give against **specific skills** required for effective performance in the role. To do this they need you to give enough detail so that they can tell **what you actually did** and **how you did it.**

The people doing the screening **will not** assume that you demonstrate a skill at the right level just because of your current role, length of experience or educational qualifications. These do not give enough evidence about how you accomplished relevant tasks.

So, if a question is about your approach to decision making, you need to do more than describe your current role and list important decisions you have made. You will need to describe **how** you reached relevant decisions.

**Some guidelines for presenting yourself well:**

* **Give specific examples**: most questions will ask you to describe an example of when you have demonstrated a skill: try to do this concisely but with enough detail so that the reader will be clear about **what you actually did**.This detail might include information about timescales, the number of people involved, budgets etc. It can help to use bullet points to that the sequence of events is clear to the reader.
* **Give a range of examples**: if possible, base your answers on different situations or challenges you faced rather than rely on just one experience. This helps the reader to evaluate how you tackle different challenges and not just your behaviour in a ‘one off’ situation.
* **Be concrete rather than theoretical:** a clear description of **how you actually behaved** in a particular situation (and why) is of much more use to the reader than a vague or general description of what you consider to be desirable attributes.

# *Example*

**Communication Skills:** *The effective x must be able to adapt communication style to particular situations and audiences….. able to produce clear and concise written information….*

***Example 1:***

*I was responsible for producing important management reports and supporting presentations for a range of important and high profile clients. Through my understanding of the clients’ needs and my effective communication skills, I have ensured that the reports that go to the clients are relevant and focused, and are continually improved. The reports I have produced and the presentations I have made were well received by all my clients. As a result of the combination of my analytical thinking and interpersonal and communication skills, my brief has been extended to lead the development of the strategic plan for the organisation.*

This is **not** a good example because:

* It does not give sufficient details of exactly what the person did or how they actually demonstrated their *‘ effective communications skills’;*
* It is not clear where the information requested at (a), (b) and (c) is presented.

***Example 2:***

*(a) The unit I was attached to was responsible for producing a management report and supporting oral presentation for several large clients, some with significant problems and issues to report. In some cases the management report was publicly available and was subject to a great deal of scrutiny. A new style/format of management letter needed to be developed for my clients, as many of the clients were complaining that the letters were too large/long and difficult to read.*

*(b) I was tasked with developing a new style of management letter for the clients. I had to meet stringent quality requirements/criteria whilst addressing the need to reduce its size. Following consultation, mainly over the phone and face-to-face, with the majority of our clients, I realised that a summarised report format with a better visual and more interactive presentation was the answer. I developed a format for a summarised report, reducing the average length from 40 pages to just 10. I achieved this through careful editing of information and increased use of graphs etc. I then developed a more focused presentation to clients and included more graphical displays and incorporated short presentations by colleagues directly involved in producing the work. During the presentations I encouraged clients to ask questions and develop their understanding of the issues at hand.*

*(c )The summarised management report and improved presentations were seen as a success by the clients, who with exception, in responding to an evaluation survey, found the new format/style better than the previous, and all requested that the revised system should be continued. 80% credit*

This is a **better** example because:

* It describes exactly what the person did and how they communicated, i.e. *‘…..consultation, mainly over the phone and face-to face’; ‘developed a format for a summarised report, reducing the average length from 40 pages to just 10’; ‘achieved this through careful editing of the information and increased use of graphs’ and ‘encouraged clients to ask questions’.*
* It is clearer where the information requested at (a), (b) and (c) of the supplementary question section is presented.

***Notes***

* It is important that you **write clearly and concisely.** Your written communication skills will be assessed against what you write on your application form.
* It is highly recommended that you keep a copy of this section of the application form.
* Please do not use the same example to illustrate your answer for more than two skill areas.
* Should you be called to interview, the board may look for **additional examples** of where you demonstrated the skills required for this post. Therefore, you should think of a number of examples of where you demonstrated each of the skills.