



CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE – ADVOCATE PANEL SCHEME 2016

SELECTION CRITERIA LEVEL 1

Introduction

1. This entry level is intended to be a testing ground for the identification of suitable future prosecutors.
2. The criteria for level 1 are intended to be less onerous than for other levels. If it were otherwise, substantial numbers of applicants would be denied the opportunity to gain experience as prosecution advocates in order to progress to higher levels.
3. Applicants will generally be admitted to level 1 unless there is
 - i. no evidence of advocacy ability,
 - ii. no endorsement from a suitable referee or
 - iii. the presentation and content of the application is generally poor e.g. spelling, grammar, layout and content.
4. Entry to the Panel at Level 1 is through this application process and is open to barristers who have reached the fifth months or their first six months of pupillage / tenancy and solicitors who have a Higher Courts Advocacy qualification.
5. For entry to Level 1 applicants must be able to demonstrate an ability to conduct competently a range of magistrates' courts prosecutions up to and including a whole day's list, straightforward Youth Court cases and to conduct simple mentions, guilty pleas, committals for sentence and appeals in the Crown Court. Applicants must provide evidence of up to date legal knowledge relevant to such prosecutions and demonstrate appropriate standards of oral and written advocacy. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they are able to work well with others in this range of prosecutions.

GRADE SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

6. The criteria for assessment will be:
 - Advocacy
 - Advisory Work
 - Other relevant knowledge, skills and experience (including relevant defence experience)



- Appreciation of the role of CPS Panel Advocate

7. Applicants for Level 1 will be expected to demonstrate the following:

Advocacy criteria

- Fifth month of their first six months of pupillage or a certificate to practice advocacy in the higher courts
- The ability to conduct advocacy in respect of all magistrates' court prosecutions; straightforward Youth Court cases; simple Crown Court mention hearings; plea and case management hearings; committals for sentence, and appeals to the Crown Court

Advisory Work

- The ability to conduct advisory work in respect of all magistrates' court prosecutions; simple Crown Court cases; committals for sentence, and appeals

Other Relevant Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- IT skills – including word processing, use of e-mail and / or secure email
- Academic strength or compensating strength in other factors
- Relevant defence or regulatory work of an equivalent level, if any

Appreciation of the Role of CPS Panel Advocate

- A knowledge of ethical standards
- A knowledge of CPS Values
- A willingness to work as part of a prosecution team without compromising professional independence
- Familiarity with, and understanding of, the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Farquharson guidelines on the role of the prosecution advocate
- An appropriate understanding of the professional relationship between the CPS, the police and the advocate
- An appreciation of the requirements in relation to speaking to victims and witnesses



References

8. Applicants for level 1 should provide one reference. An appropriate referee might be a pupil master, head of chambers or a chambers advocacy trainer who has seen the applicant perform advocacy.
9. With regard to the type of work Level 1 advocates will be expected to undertake, Referees should be able to state:
 - a. The extent of their knowledge of the applicant's work
 - b. How they assess the applicant's suitability to conduct prosecution work
 - c. How they assess the applicant's ability in respect of advocacy and advisory work.