**Guidance Notes**

Please read through the following guidelines that will help you complete the application form.

* Complete all sections of the form.
* Make sure the form is tidy and try to avoid mistakes by writing out a version first to make sure you are happy with the information you are providing. Always read through your final version before you send it.

To complete your application:

* Please type or write clearly in black.
* Ensure you clearly state the job title you are applying for.
* In the ‘Employment history’ section you must state why you have left a position.
* Always explain any gaps in work history.
* Proof of qualifications and membership to professional bodies may be required.

**References**

We will take up professional references once you have been interviewed and **provisionally** offered the post. Please make sure that you have given the full contact details of your referees so that this does not delay processing reference requests.

If you have no employer references, we will take up references with named individuals at colleges where you have studied, or people who know you in a professional capacity. **Please do not give the names of friends or relatives or colleagues that are/were not senior to you as referees. All references will be verified.**

You will only be confirmed in the post once we are satisfied with the information received from your referees.

**Supporting Statement**

The 'Why you feel you are suitable for this position' part of the form is called your *supporting statement*. It is the most important part of the application form.

You should consider the following:

* Applications can only be assessed on the information you provide. You need to clearly demonstrate your capabilities.
* You need to explain how you meet each of the person specification points and provide examples from your previous experience. Do not forget to present this in relation to the job description for the job you are applying for.
* Often the strongest applications are those that link the three elements highlighted above and are presented in a clear format (e.g. numbered points that correspond to the person specification).
* We expect your supporting statement to be a minimum of ¾ of a side of A4 and a maximum of 2 sides.
* Honesty is always the best policy; please do not make false claims.
* If you are making a career change, stress what skills are transferable to the role you are applying for.
* Ensure you return your application in good time before the closing date - aim for the day before the deadline.
* Use concise, unambiguous sentences and avoid exaggerations.