

Examiners report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2 Professional Interview: Unit 5 Investigations June 2023

General

Nineteen candidates took the Investigations professional interview in May 2023. Seventeen candidates passed the interview and two failed. Marks ranged from 94 – 30. Four different scenarios were used in this cycle of professional interviews which took place over the course of three days.

Candidates are presented with a scenario which they are likely to come across during their careers. They have ten minutes to read the scenario and to make notes. The interview then commences where candidates are shown five questions, all of which directly relate to the scenario, enabling the scenario to develop. Candidates have a maximum of twenty minutes to answer the questions presented.

The candidates who achieved the higher marks had prepared well and were able to apply their knowledge to the scenario and the questions asked, succinctly explaining what they would do and why. These candidates used their time wisely, returning to earlier questions and adding anything further that directly related to the scenario.

One reason of failing this interview is when a candidate does not consider the scenario presented and the questions asked. If a candidate talks at length about a topic, they are comfortable with but it has no relevance to the scenario they will not gain marks.

The syllabus is broad and there were some areas that were covered extremely well by many candidates. These included:

- The Consumer Rights Act powers and applying for a warrant.
- How to take an effective witness statement.

Areas of the syllabus that were answered very well by some candidates but not so well by others included:

- Enforcement policies
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and codes

Below is an example scenario. Candidates do not see the questions in their 10 minute reading and preparation time, however each scenario hints at the areas of the syllabus that will be covered by the questions. Candidates are reminded that the professional interview encompasses the whole aspect of the activity, so answers should not be based solely on the legislation in the subject, but also the practicalities surrounding the scenario.

Example Scenario

You are a Trading Standards Officer who has received a telephone call from a resident about some roofing work that is being undertaken at their property.

The resident is concerned because the individual, who seems to be in charge of the roofing work, has just advised her that the initial price of £5,000 has increased to £50,000 and she doesn't have enough money to pay for the work. The resident also states that there are now more than 20 individuals at her property and she is beginning to feel rather intimidated
 You will need to consider how to respond to this incident.

Questions Asked during the interview:

1. You have decided that you should attend the property. Discuss what you will need to consider before attending and who else you may take with you.
2. Explain how you will assist the resident when you arrive and obtain all relevant evidence.
3. Police officers have arrived at the property and the individual who seems to be in charge of the roofing work has been arrested and is going to be taken to the local police station. Discuss the procedures in the custody suite and how you will prepare to interview the suspect ensuring compliance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the relevant codes.
4. Your investigation is continuing. Discuss what criminal offences may have occurred and the elements of these offences, any statutory defences and time limits.
5. Explain how you will have ensured throughout your investigation you have done all you can to avoid any abuse of process claims?

Knowledge to be demonstrated
Q1 Knowledge of intelligence environment in the UK, NIM, IOM and open/closed source materials and how to use intelligence to direct an investigation. Knowledge of powers.
Q2 Knowledge of how to progress an investigation, who, what, where, when, why – taking statements. Knowledge of identifying vulnerable witnesses and ABE interviews to secure best evidence from them. Knowledge of victim personal/impact statements. The gathering and retention of different types of evidence.
Q3. Knowledge of the procedures in the custody suite. Knowledge of Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the relevant codes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the relevant codes and equivalent rules in Scotland.
Q4. Knowledge of elements of criminal offences, statutory defences and time limits
Q5. Knowledge of abuse of process including case law.

The above table illustrates what the examiner was looking for in the responses to the questions.