

In accordance with the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 – the position of Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) and the new NIPSO office was established on 1 April 2016. The legislation abolished the previous offices of Assembly Ombudsman and Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints. The Act extends the offices' remit, improves public access to redress and strengthens the Ombudsman's powers of investigation.

The Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (Ombudsman) is seeking to offer an apprenticeship for a second year trainee solicitor at the QUB Institute of Legal Studies. The trainee solicitor will be based at the Ombudsman's office in Progressive House, 33 Wellington Place, Belfast BT1 6HN:

**Second Year Trainee Solicitor (fixed term until September 2018)**

**Rate of pay:** £7.05 per hour (aged 21 – 24)

£7.50 (aged 25 and over)

**Hours of Work:** Full time - 9-5pm – 37 hours/week.

**Main purpose of the post:**

To assist the Legal Officer in the preparation and provision of legal advice to the Ombudsman and her staff. The Trainee Solicitor will be required to support the Legal Officer in keeping up to date with changes in the administrative justice and ombudsman landscape that may impact on the Ombudsman's role and remit and advise the Ombudsman and her staff on legal issues arising in connection with any aspect of the work of the Office. In carrying out this role, the Trainee Solicitor will be required to research, collect, summarise and analyse relevant material in order to prepare detailed fact summaries. The Trainee Solicitor may also be required to represent the Office by accompanying the Legal Officer to external events.

Applicants are asked to submit a C.V. together with a response to an essay question (in no more than 750 words) as follows:

**Explain the role of the Ombudsman in the administrative justice landscape in Northern Ireland.**

You can return your application by post to The Monitoring Officer, Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman, Progressive House, 33 Wellington Place, Belfast BT1 6HN or by email to [monitoringofficer@nipso.org.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@nipso.org.uk).

All applications must be returned no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 19 July 2017. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

Please visit [www.nipso.org.uk](http://www.nipso.org.uk) to download the Equal Opportunities monitoring form and return it together with your application.

If you require any further information about the role, then please email Andrea Hegarty ([andrea.hegarty@nipso.org.uk](mailto:andrea.hegarty@nipso.org.uk)) or telephone 028 9089 7786.

NIPSO is committed to the merit principle in respect of all appointments. NIPSO is an Equal Opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified applicants.