Commissioner Application Guidance

Applications from individuals

You will not be scored on the word count; the maximum word count for the personal statement is 1,500 words but you can use less words. You can also apply via audio recording, video or BSL video.

Your personal statement should include why you want to be a commissioner, what you could bring to the role in terms of personal experience, knowledge, or skills and how you meet all the essential criteria detailed in the person specification. Please note we are not accepting CV’s, only personal statements.

You do not need to have experience of working at a Disabled people’s organisation or organisation working with Disabled people to apply. You can include personal experience living as a Disabled person or voluntary work experience in the application, for example organising a Disabled parking bay on your street. You can use examples in the application that are not Disabled related, for example volunteering as a school governor.

We understand completing applications can seem overwhelming, so we suggest writing your personal statement bit by bit over a few days. You could divide the points on the person specification into two or three sections then work on each section on different days until you have completed them all.

Applications from organisations

If you are applying as a Disabled person representing an organisation of Disabled people, or a Disabled person representing an organisation working with Disabled people you do not have to nominate an individual representative as you are applying as an organisation.

To apply please write an organisation statement addressing why the organisation wants to be on the commission, what it could bring to the role and how the organisation meets all the essential criteria detailed in the person specification. For example, the organisation could include any collaborative working with other organisations or leaders to bring about change from an organisation perceptive and explain its knowledge of Disabled people’s issues in the city and its understanding of Disability as an equal and civil rights issues.

We have listed some examples for each point in the person specification to provide some guidance for your personal statement.

Personal attributes

* 1. Please confirm one of the criteria, you do not need to be a Disabled person and be working in the Disability field. A Disabled person is anyone who self-identifies as having mental health problems, a physical or sensory impairment, learning difficulties or neurodiversity or people with health conditions lasting more than a year, that impacts on their daily living.
	2. Explain how or why you think Disabled people are treated inequality or unfairly, for example, there are no lifts in a building, there is no sign language translation or bullying or hate crimes against Disabled people.
	3. Please confirm one of the criteria. There is no time limit for living or working in Bristol, you could have lived or worked in Bristol for 1 week or 20 years.

Knowledge

* 1. Please explain what you know about the experiences and lives of people in Bristol, including Disabled people with different impairments or different backgrounds. Please also include what you know about the services that support or help Disabled people, for example supported living.
	2. Please explain what you know about one of the policy areas and structures, how it’s organised and what impact it has on yourself or other Disabled people. For example, the UK governments policy for special educational needs and disability (SEND).

Experience

* 1. Please use any experience you have. It does not need to be experience as a Disabled person, for example it could include experience working as a school governor, collecting signatures for a petition or a volunteering opportunity.
	2. You can use examples from your life; they do not need to relate to being a Disabled person. For example, being involved in a campaign, working with your neighbours to get a school crossing patrol in place or organising a Disabled parking bay or drop curb on your street.

Skills

* 1. Please show that you can ask questions that can help solve problems and that you can think of creative solutions for problems.
	2. Please explain how you can get along with a wide range of people in different situations and that you can bring people together to solve a problem or issue.
	3. Please show that you understand the different ways of making physical spaces and commutation accessible. Please also explain how you can talk to somebody and get something changed through reasonable discussion, while being respectful of others position.

Term of Office

11. Please confirm if you are currently able to commit to 2-3 days per month for an initial period of four years, with a review after two years. We understand life circumstances change and you make need to reduce your time commitment, this can be discussed and agreed with the Chair when needed.