Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Candidate Information Booklet

Job title: Senior Researcher – Health Information and Standards (HIS)

Grade: Engineer Grade II

Closing date: 5pm, Monday, 07th December 2026

Please read carefully

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is undertaking a competition to identify suitable candidates for appointment to the position of:

Role Title:	Senior Researcher – HIS
Grade:	Engineer Grade II
Location:	Cork, Dublin or Galway
Tenure:	1 x immediate permanent vacancy HIQA intends to create a panel for future permanent and fixed term vacancies that may arise
Blended Working:	**1 - 2 days a week** in the office and the remainder of the working week spent working from home. Further information can be found below in the **Principal Conditions of Service** under **Blended Working Arrangements**.
Salary:	€76,202 (Engineer Grade II, Point 1)
Closing date:	5pm, Monday 07th December 2026

This recruitment campaign will be in compliance with the Code of Practice, Appointment to the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA). The competition will be conducted under the recruitment licence of the Health Information and Quality Authority. The final Selection Process will be carried out by the Health Information and Quality Authority. This Code of Practice is published by the CPSA and is available on www.cpsa.ie

About the Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory body established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with relevant government Ministers and departments, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector of Social Services within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of permanent international protection accommodation service centres, health services and children's social services against the national standards. Where necessary, HIQA investigates serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use health services and children's social services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.
- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health and social care services, with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Visit www.hiqa.ie for more information.

Mission

To enable the best possible health and social care outcomes for all, through evidence-informed decision-making, standard setting, and regulation

Vision

Health and social care services consistently deliver excellent standards of care and the best possible outcomes for the people of Ireland



Key Areas for Performance

HIQA has identified key behavioural and technical competencies for effective performance through a Competency Framework as seen below. Please refer to the role description for an overview of each competency and the proficiency levels required for this role. For more in-depth information on the competencies. It is important that you review the full competency framework guidance document which is available at: https://www.hiqa.ie/about-us/careers.

Proficiency Levels

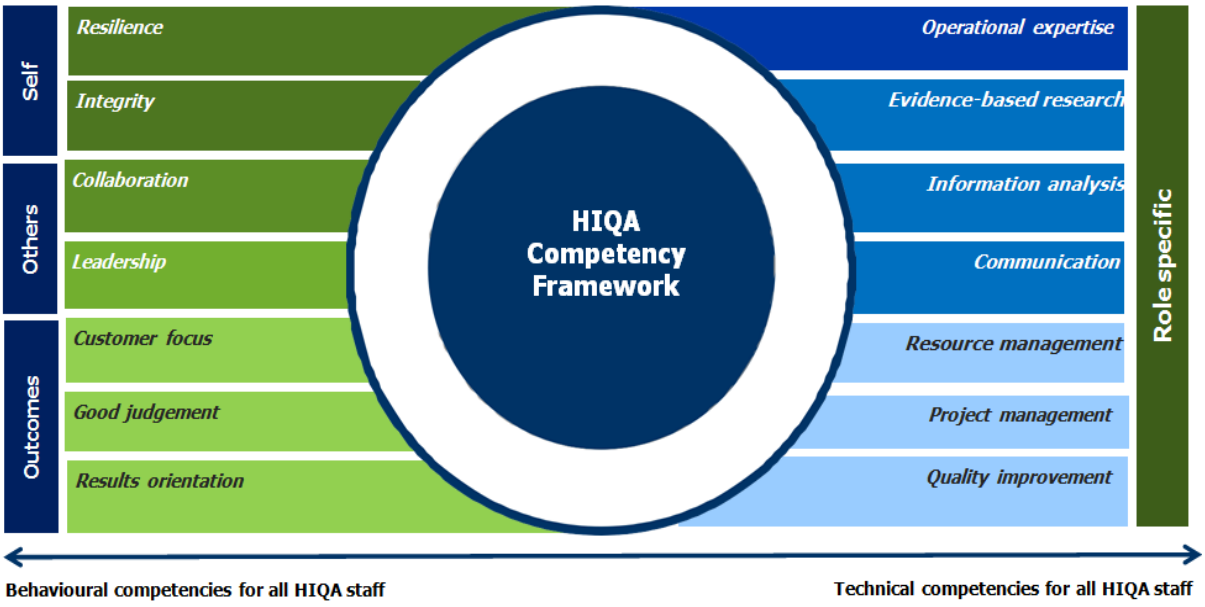
This Competency Framework is based on four levels of proficiency that build on each other:

Emerging/Developing: The level of competency required to carry out some of the core requirements of the role, with support/leadership required to develop competency in other requirements

Proficient: The level of competency required to carry out the core requirements of a role

Skilled: The level of competency required to carry out the core requirements of a role, and develop capability in others or demonstrate the competency in a more senior or complex role

Master: The level of competency required to carry out the core requirements of a role, develop capability in others, demonstrate the competency in a more senior or complex role and be seen as a role model in the organisation or field in that area of competence.



Role Description

Role Overview	
Role Title	Senior Researcher - HIS
Directorate	Health Information and Standards
Grade	Engineer Grade II
Reports To	Programme Manager – Research & Quality
Role Purpose	
The purpose of this role within the relevant business unit and for HIQA as a whole:	HIQA exists to improve health and social care services for the people of Ireland. HIQA's role is to develop standards, inspect and review health and social care services and support informed decisions on how services are delivered. The Health Information and Standards (HIS) Directorate has five teams: ▪ **Governance, Research and Strategy**: drives quality and consistency in governance, research and strategy related activity across the HIS Directorate. ▪ **National Care Experience Programme**: conducts national programmes of engagement across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health, Mental Health Commission and the HSE. ▪ **Health Information Quality and Assurance:** advises on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, assessing compliance against national standards for national data collection and ehealth services, and evaluating information resources to support health and social care services in Ireland. ▪ **Health Information Standards**: sets national standards and develops frameworks and guidance to support the exchange of health and social care information. ▪ **National Standards for health and social care services**: develops person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services.

	This role will support the Governance, Research and Strategy team and will work across the above teams. The purpose of this role is to: ▪ Drive improvements and consistency in our research processes to conduct evidence reviews, undertake national programmes of engagement , set national standards and develop frameworks and guidance. It is crucial that we continually innovate and improve the quality of our work through robust research, striving for methodological rigour to ensure that we are using the best available evidence to inform all aspects of our work. ▪ Quality assure HIS research related outputs. ▪ Build capability in research skills in HIS staff by providing support and mentorship, co-ordinating training and leading the research working group. ▪ Establish and support new and existing academic and professional collaborations to guide on advancing our research processes and to identify future opportunities for research innovation and growth. ▪ Co-ordinate work placements, supervision and internship opportunities for students and graduates to support core work. ▪ Identify opportunities for academic dissemination. Encourage and support teams to publish in peer-reviewed academic journals. ▪ Identify relevant national and international conferences and awards to share core work. This role will require excellent research, information analysis, communication, collaboration and project management skills. Their support and expertise will extend across the Directorate as required, ensuring that we meet our business objectives.

Behavioural Expectations	
The way that HIQA people are expected to work to role model HIQA values:	The incumbent of this role is expected to demonstrate HIQA's values in the delivery of every day work and interactions with clients and colleagues, by putting people first, being fair and objective, being open and accountable, demonstrating excellence and innovation and working together.
Common Tasks	
Team Member	▪ Seek clarity on the tasks associated with own role ▪ Complete tasks in compliance with policies and procedures ▪ Adhere to relevant legislation, standards and internal audits ▪ Fulfil any mandatory or professional competency requirements ▪ Maintain confidentiality and a professional approach ▪ Raise any concerns in relation to workplace health and safety ▪ Actively identify learning needs and development opportunities ▪ Actively contribute as a team member ▪ Follow direction and take on new and different tasks ▪ Set and achieve performance goals that contribute to HIQA strategy ▪ Regularly seek feedback to meet performance expectations and goals

Role Specific Tasks	
The key tasks and activities associated with the role:	The nature of the tasks and activities associated with the role will vary accordingly. It will involve: **Research Processes** ▪ Utilising the key principles of change management to develop, strengthen and standardise our research processes to conduct evidence reviews, undertake national programmes of engagement , set national standards and develop frameworks and guidance. ▪ These research processes include: ▪ Evidence synthesis: Guiding protocol development, assisting with search strategies and advising on a fit for purpose methodological approach for reviews including scoping reviews and landscape analysis. ▪ Qualitative methods: Advising on protocol development and analysis for focus groups and interviews and other appropriate qualitative research methods. ▪ Quantitative methods: Advising on protocol development and analytical approach when undertaking surveys or other quantitative projects. ▪ Data and information management: Ensuring that we have systematic and standardised processes for collecting, storing, analysing, securing, reporting and sharing data and information. Responsible for checking compliance. ▪ Horizon scanning and supporting the use of relevant technology including generative AI to ensure that we are efficient and effective with the research processes that we use. **Quality Assurance** ▪ Peer review research related outputs including protocols, evidence reviews, stakeholder engagement reports and provide constructive feedback to ensure that research processes are appropriate, robust, transparent and of high quality. **Building Capability in Research Skills** ▪ Providing mentorship to colleagues and or project teams. ▪ Leading or co-leading on specific research projects. ▪ Identifying and co-ordinating timely and targeted research training for project teams. ▪ Leading or co-leading the monthly HIS Research Working Group to support staff to enhance their research skills, academic writing skills and peer-reviewed academic

publications. Manage the research resources hub and Padlet for HIS staff.

Academic and Professional Collaborations

- Establishing and supporting academic and professional collaborations to collaborate on strategic research projects, peer-reviewed academic publications and student support (work experience and teaching).
- Horizon scanning for grant funding opportunities for the HIS Directorate.
- Identifying and co-ordinating student work placements, supervision and internship opportunities to support core work. Developing structured student and graduate programmes including relevant work experience and competency based training.

Academic Publications

- Identifying opportunities for academic dissemination. Encourage and support teams to prepare and submit peer-reviewed academic publications. Leading or co-leading on peer reviewed academic publications.

Conferences & Awards

- Identifying relevant national and international conferences and awards to share core work.
- Reviewing and advising on conference abstracts, posters and oral presentations before submission. Monitor conference and awards attendance.
- Attending and delivering presentations on core work at relevant conferences.

Other

- Support a structured approach to knowledge translation considering how we plan, capture and communicate knowledge generated by the HIS Directorate.
- Representing HIQA, where required, in an informed, professional and credible manner in its engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, presenting and facilitating at workshops, information sessions, lectures, training sessions, advisory groups and conferences.

The contents of any role description are not exhaustive and are intended to be indicative of the scope of the role.

Qualifications	
The qualifications that are **essential** to effectively meet the requirements of the role:	**In determining your eligibility, the following are the essential qualifications that will be assessed as part of the shortlisting stage of the selection process.** ▪ Degree qualification (minimum of Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or equivalent) in health or social care-related areas, health services management, a health-related science with a high content in health services research, or a discipline deemed relevant[1] to the role by the Authority.
The qualifications that are **desirable** to effectively meet the requirements of the role:	▪ PhD with research skills in Health or Social Care, or a discipline deemed relevant[1].
Experience	
The experience that is **essential** to effectively meet the requirements of the role:	**In determining your eligibility, the following are the essential knowledge and experience that will be assessed as part of the shortlisting stage of the selection process.** ▪ At least three years of experience in relevant health or social care research including evidence synthesis, qualitative or quantitative research. **Other knowledge and experience that are deemed necessary for the role.** ▪ Extensive practical experience of peer-reviewing research related outputs and providing constructive feedback. ▪ Peer-reviewed academic publication record.

[1] Relevant specialist area(s) - Public Health, Health Informatics, Healthcare Quality, Healthcare-related science or equivalent

The experience that is **desirable** to effectively meet the requirements of the role:	▪ Proven experience in implementing or updating processes or change initiatives. ▪ Research funding track record.

ROLE COMPETENCY OVERVIEW		
HIQA Competencies (Behavioural)	**Description**	**Required Proficiency**
Resilience	Maintains personal confidence and is able to manage self and emotions in a flexible and adaptive manner when faced with adversity or challenging situations	Skilled
Integrity	Is sincere, respects and values others, maintains a high standard of personal ethics, reliably delivers on promises and takes a rights-based approach to all decisions and actions	Skilled
Collaboration	Builds relationships based on collaboration and trust, is politically and socially astute in approach and is able to resolve difficult situations and conflict	Skilled
Leadership	Orients self and others to a vision, engages with and contributes to an inclusive and productive work environment; holds to account, promotes learning and challenges self and others to achieve a shared purpose	Skilled
Customer Focus	Recognises internal and external customers and stakeholders, and proactively seeks to understand, uphold and respond to their needs	Skilled
Good Judgement	Seeks and analyses information to better understand complex situations, applies an ethical framework to make critical and objective evaluations and reaches high-quality decisions that are contextually relevant	Skilled
Results Orientation	Can deliver results in challenging situations with and through others, strives to exceed expectations and creates as much value as possible	Skilled

ROLE COMPETENCY OVERVIEW		
HIQA Competencies (Technical)	**Description**	**Required Proficiency**
Operational Expertise	Applies knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfil requirements of the role effectively in the context of the operational area and function	Proficient
Evidence-Based Research	Critically seeks information and researches, exploring a range of potential sources, to ensure that a broad set of inputs, both quantitative and qualitative, are used to inform decisions and recommendations	Master
Information Analysis	Analyses and assesses information in a structured way to inform and improve decision-making, problem-solving, recommendations and everyday work	Master
Communication	Develops and delivers key messages and documentation based on quality inputs and consultation with others. Presents information in an authentic, clear, and easy-to-understand way that is impactful and tailored to the needs of the audience	Skilled
Resource Management	Manages available resources to achieve the best outcomes	Skilled
Project Management	Identifies, plans for and implements change projects and initiatives effectively in collaboration with others	Skilled
Quality Improvement	Delivers quality for customers and stakeholders in everyday work through high standards, effective problem-solving and continuous improvement	Skilled

Principal Conditions of Service

Probation

A probationary period of six months applies to this position.

Pay

Candidates will be appointed on the **minimum point of the salary scale (€76,202)** and in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines. The rate of remuneration will not be subject to negotiation.

The incremental progression for this scale is in line with Government pay policy. The salary scale for this position is as follows:

Engineer II (PPC)

€76,202	€77,944	€79,680	€81,425	€83,165	€83,629
€85,344	€87,125	€90,024[1]	€92,931[2]		

1. *After 3 years' satisfactory service at the maximum*
2. *After 6 years' satisfactory service at the maximum*

Entry will be at the first point of the scale. An exception may occur where an appointee has been serving elsewhere in the **public service** in an analogous grade and pay-scale. In this case the appointment may be assimilated to the nearest point of the advertised salary scale with their incremental date adjusted accordingly. Please note the rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

Superannuation

Pensionable public servants (new joiners) recruited on or after 1 January 2013 will be members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme. Please note that the Single Public Service Pension Scheme applies to all pensionable first-time entrants to the public service, as well as to former public servants returning to the public service after a break of more than 26 weeks. In certain circumstances, for example, where the public servant was on secondment or approved leave or remains on the same contract of employment, the 26-week rule does not apply. The legislation giving effect to the Scheme is the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

For those who are not subject to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (e.g. those transferring from other public service employment where the break in service,

if any, is less than 26 weeks), the terms of the Health Information and Quality Authority Superannuation Scheme will apply.

Pension Abatement

If an appointee has previously been employed in the Civil or Public Service and that appointee is entitled to or in receipt of a pension from the Civil or Public Service or where a Civil/Public Service pension comes into payment during the appointee's re-employment that pension will be subject to abatement in accordance with Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012.

Please note: In applying for this position you are acknowledging that you understand that the abatement provisions, where relevant, will apply. It is not envisaged that the employing Department/Office/Body will support an application for an abatement waiver in respect of appointments to this position.

Annual Leave

Annual leave is 27 days, rising to 30 days after 5 years' service.

Hours of attendance

Hours of attendance will be fixed from time to time but will amount to not less than 35 per week. The appointee may be required to work additional hours from time to time as may be reasonable and necessary for the proper performance of his or her duties subject to the limits set down under working time regulations.

Blended Working Arrangements

HIQA has introduced blended working to offer more flexible working arrangements to all employees. We aim to strike a balance between being flexible, efficient, and resilient by facilitating blended working where practical, while enabling onsite interaction, collaboration, and support as required.

All roles in HIQA have been assessed under the criteria of business needs and role suitability for blended working. This determined the proportion of time that employees will spend working in HIQA offices and working from home, depending on their role.

Depending on the role, there may be a requirement to attend the office for more than the allocated number of days for training and on-boarding purposes at the start of your employment and during the probation period.

A review of our blended working model confirmed that this model is working well in HIQA therefore we are now moving from Interim Blended Working to a long term Blended Working Model. Our existing policy and documentation will be revised and

updated once the framework for the Work-Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act is published. Our model is in line with the Civil Service Framework for Blended Working in Ireland.

Further guidance on HIQA's Blended Working Policy, which includes eligibility criteria will be issued to successful candidates. This is an opt-in policy and details on how you can apply will be issued to you before you start.

Selection Procedure

An information booklet and application form are available at: Careers with HIQA (recruitisland.ie)

How to Apply and Closing Date

The completed application form must be submitted by **5pm on Monday 07th December 2026.**

Only applications completed online through Careers with HIQA (recruitisland.ie) **will be accepted. CVs will not be accepted.**

Selection Process

The Health Information and Quality Authority will convene a selection panel to carry out the competitive stages of the selection process to the highest standards of best practice.

The approach employed may include:

- A shortlisting of candidates, on the basis of the information contained in their application
- One or more competitive competency-based interview
- Completion of assessments
- Presentation or other exercises
- Any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate.

Please note the role competency overview referred to in the above role description. This will assist you when completing the application form and preparing for the competency based interview.

The number of applications received for a position generally exceeds that required to fill existing and future roles. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the role are such that it would not be

practical to progress all candidates to the next stage of the selection process, HIQA may decide that a smaller number of candidates based on order of merit from shortlisting may be called to the next stage of the process.

HIQA will conduct a shortlisting process to select a group who, based on an examination of the application forms, appear to be the most suitable for the role. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates, who based on their application, appear to be more qualified and/or have more relevant experience.

The applications will be shortlisted by a selection panel. They will examine each application form against the essential shortlisting criteria (outlined in the role description above) and the Evidence of Competencies section on the application form.

The onus is on candidates to establish eligibility for the role, therefore it is in each candidate's interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of their qualifications, experience and Evidence of Competencies as requested on the application form.

Competition updates will be issued to the email address as entered on the application form.

The onus is on each candidate to ensure that they are in receipt of all communication. Candidates are advised to check emails on a regular basis throughout the duration of the competition; in addition, being sure to check junk/spam folders should any emails be mistakenly filtered. HIQA accepts no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by a candidate.

Interview Dates

The onus is on all candidates who are shortlisted for interview to ensure they are available for interview on the identified date.

Interview Expenses

The Health Information and Quality Authority will not be responsible for any expense, including travelling expenses that candidates may incur in connection with their application for this post.

Panels

HIQA intends to create a panel from which future vacancies may be filled. You should only make a location choice where you would be prepared to work if offered an appointment.

Citizenship Requirements

Eligible candidates must be:

a) A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or

b) A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or

c) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or

d) A non-EEA citizen who has a Stamp 4[2] permission: or Stamp 5 permission

To qualify candidates must be eligible by the date of any job offer.

It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to ensure these permissions are in place.

Further information is available from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment: https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/

Candidates will be required to provide verification of citizenship eligibility and qualifications in a form acceptable to the Health Information and Quality Authority.

Candidate Obligations

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify them and will result in their exclusion from the process.

Candidates must not:

- knowingly or recklessly provide false information;
- canvass any person with or without inducements;
- impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process;
- interfere with or compromise the process in any way.

Where a candidate is found guilty of canvassing or in breach of any of the above, then:

- where they have not been appointed to a post, they will be disqualified as a candidate; or

[2] Please note that a 50 TEU permission, which is a replacement for Stamp 4EUFAM after Brexit, is acceptable as a Stamp 4 equivalent.

- where they have been appointed to a post, they shall forfeit that appointment.

Candidates must:

- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned
- Be suitable on the grounds of character
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned – and, if successful, they will not be appointed to the post unless they:
- Agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed
- Are fully competent and available to undertake, and fully capable of undertaking, the duties attached to the position
- Be passed medically fit to take up the appointment

Prior to appointing

Prior to recommending any candidate for appointment to this position HIQA will make all such enquires that are deemed necessary to determine the suitability of that candidate. Until all stages of the recruitment process have been fully completed a final determination cannot be made nor can it be deemed or inferred that such a determination has been made.

Should the person recommended for appointment not accept the appointment, or, having accepted it, relinquish it, HIQA may at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process.

Deeming of Candidature to be Withdrawn

Candidates who do not attend for interview when and where required by the Health Information and Quality Authority, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the Health Information and Quality Authority require in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim for consideration.

Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 2014, all enquiries and applications are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in the process.

Data Protection

Please note that all personal data shall be treated in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018.

For further information on how the Health Information and Quality Authority processes your data, please review the privacy notice on our website: https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and- publications/corporate-publication/hiqa-privacy-notice

Protected Disclosures

HIQA is committed to maintaining a responsible and ethical culture with the highest standards of honesty, integrity, accountability and compliance in accordance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (as amended) ("the Act").

If you are a HIQA worker, which includes a job applicant under the Act, you can make a protected disclosure about HIQA to HIQA. If you want to know more about making an internal protected disclosure please email internalPD@hiqa.ie for guidance.

The Health Information and Quality Authority is an equal opportunities employer.

HIQA welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of their gender, marital status, family status, religious belief, race, age, sexual orientation, disability or membership of the Traveller community.

If you require any reasonable accommodations to support you throughout the recruitment and selection process please outline this in the appropriate section of the application form and all efforts will be taken to accommodate those requests. All information disclosed will be kept confidential.

Review and Appeal Guidelines

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is committed to ensuring that all recruitment processes are conducted fairly, transparently and in accordance with the Codes of Practice published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA).

In the first instance HIQA encourages candidates to request feedback on their application and/or assessment performance. Feedback can provide additional context regarding decisions made during the recruitment process and may assist candidates in understanding the outcome of their application.

In accordance with the CPSA Code of Practice, HIQA will seek to address any review or appeals informally in the first instance, where appropriate.

If candidates are dissatisfied with an action or decision further information on the review procedures and the CPSA Codes of Practice is available at www.cpsa.ie.

