

English National Support Scheme for UKPHR Specialist Registration by Portfolio Assessment (SRbPA)

DHSC has funded a **National SRbPA Support programme**, for high potential candidates for UKPHR's Specialist Registration by Portfolio Assessment (SRbPA).

This scheme aims to support a small cohort of **high potential individuals**, to complete and submit the pre-application and portfolio to UKPHR for SRbPA. The scheme is for those who are **already working at specialist level** and can demonstrate this level **across the breadth of public health practice**. It is **not a developmental route**. Applications are restricted to those with **minor gaps** in their Knows How and Show How competencies. Individuals are expected to submit their pre-application and portfolio to UKPHR within 2 years of the start of the support scheme.

Those eligible will:

- Be working at an **equivalent level** to a newly qualified public health professional who has completed Public Health Specialty Training
- Hold a **Master's level** qualification in a relevant public health discipline
- Participate in a relevant formal CPD scheme and can show evidence of appraisal, PDP and 360 feedback
- Demonstrate specialist level public health expertise and skills, **across the breadth** of the UKPHR Specialist registration by portfolio assessment [Framework of competencies 2025](#)
- Be a **strategic leader**, working collaboratively at senior organisational levels to deliver population health in complex and unpredictable environments
- Be able to submit a portfolio to evidence all this

What support is offered?

- **Initial screening**
- 1:1 career conversation with an independent facilitator, focusing on:
 - Understanding of and capacity to undertake the SRbPA process
 - Assessment of eligibility and readiness for the support

scheme

- Development towards SRbPA to date and in future

- **Those prioritised for support**
- Individual support to develop your pre-application and portfolio, via
 - planning to meet minor competency gaps
 - considering options to meet gaps
 - reviewing KH/SH matrices
 - narrative planning
 - review of pre-application form, and/or narrative drafts
- A workshop with UKPHR Moderators to clarify requirements
- Regular facilitated group workshops, themed to group needs
- Support for your line manager

What commitment is needed?

- Personal time to develop your re-application form, portfolio, fulfil your PDP and minor competency gaps
- Commitment to the support programme
- Your line manager's commitment to attend twice yearly workshops
- The support of your line manager, Director of Public Health and organisation that you are both
 - eligible for SRbPA
 - can fulfil minor gaps identified in your PDP

For further information and application details, see the FAQs below.

[Apply](#) by **9am Thursday 8th October**.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is SRbPA?

SRbPA is one of three routes to gaining [specialist registration with UKPHR](#). All three routes are equivalent and based on the same curriculum. SRbPA is a **retrospective route** for people already working at the level of a newly qualified Consultant in Public Health, whilst the Specialty Training scheme is a developmental training route. Dual registration is also available for those already on the GMC or GDC public health specialty register and want optional UKPHR registration. See this [factsheet](#) for an overview.

What level should I be working at to be eligible for SRbPA?

SRbPA is for individuals currently working at a level of practice **equivalent to a Speciality Registrar at the end of Public Health training**, or a newly qualified Consultant in Public Health (CPH).

How do I know if I'm working at the right level?

If your line manager is a GMC, GDC or UKPHR Registered Public Health Specialist, they may be able to help you consider whether you really are working at level required for SRbPA, across all areas of public health practice. Educational Supervisors for Public Health Speciality Trainees will also be able to advise on the level expected of specialty trainees at the end of training.

What areas of public health practice must be demonstrated?

Individuals have to demonstrate **competence across 9 levels of public health practice**, as defined by the SRbPA [competency framework](#) aligned to the FPH Specialty training curriculum. These competencies must be supported with clear evidence.

How does SRbPA differ from defined specialist registration?

UKPHR used to have a defined specialist level of registration, where applicants demonstrated competence at newly qualified consultant level across a specific, narrower area of practice. This route is no longer available. SRbPA requires demonstration across the **full breadth of public health practice, at CPH level**.

Do I need a Master's in Public Health?

SRbPA applicants must have a Master's level qualification in public health or related discipline that covers the breadth of competencies. They need to evidence knowledge is current. Those with a significantly dated Masters who don't have evidence of CPD across the whole curriculum should update their CPD before applying for this support scheme.

Do I need to do the public health exams?

Many people choose to evidence their knowledge competencies by passing the [FPH Diplomate exam](#). Those considering the exam should prioritise and pass it before applying for this support scheme. ^[08]

I have some gaps in my competencies, am I eligible for this support scheme?

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Individuals with a small number of minor gaps in their competencies may be eligible for support. However, **this support scheme is not a developmental route**. Those with gaps are advised to prioritise filling these through their professional development plan, in preparation for a focus on SRbPA in the development plan in future.

I am part of the ADPH SRbPA peer support group. Am I eligible for this support scheme?

Some people who are members of the ADPH peer support group may be eligible for support. However, the group has many members, at different stages in their SRbPA journeys. This support scheme is for a **small cohort of high potential candidates**, who are ready to develop their applications.

I'm part of a regional support programme. Can I apply for this too?

You cannot be part of two support schemes. If you are already on a regional support scheme, and are successful with your application to this scheme, you must choose which you would like to be part of.

What will the support scheme offer?

Support will be for a maximum of up to two years for pre-application and portfolio development. It comprises:

- An initial career development conversation to establish progress towards SRbPA, development needs and priorities
- A workshop with UKPHR Moderators
- Twice termly workshops, themed to your cohort's needs
- Line manager support through 6 monthly workshops
- Individual support with a named facilitator with expertise in SRbPA tailored to meet individual needs, e.g. timeline planning, considering options to meet minor competency gaps, narrative groupings and style, use of evidence, comment on pre-app and narrative drafts

What support is required from line managers?

All applicants need a GMC, GDC or UKPHR registered Public Health Specialist to support the process. This is usually a line manager, however, could be another individual within the organisation that is familiar with their work. They need to corroborate level and breadth of work, facilitate opportunities to meet minor gaps, provide pastoral support and provide references. See more at [UKPHR FAQs for employers](#).

For this support scheme line managers/others are required to attend an initial online workshop, **9.30-11.30 on Thursday 24th September 2026**, to understand their role and corroborate applicant's eligibility. Please email Information@populationhealth.co.uk to book and receive joining instructions.

What if I'm not sure if I'm eligible for this support scheme?

If you're unsure whether you're eligible for this support scheme, ensure you have read all the UKPHR guidance for SRbPA, discuss these FAQs with your manager. If

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you're still not sure, register for a webinar on **Wednesday 23rd September 9.30-11am** to understand more about the small cohort of high potential candidates this scheme is targeted towards. Email Information@populationhealth.co.uk to register.

UKPHR have long waiting times for SRbPA assessment - how will they cope?

Alongside this scheme, DHSC is supporting UKPHR to increase their capacity for both pre-application and portfolio assessment, to reduce waiting times.

How much time does it take to submit a pre-application and portfolio?

SRbPA is not an 'easy' option. It takes time and commitment. It is unlikely that an individual working at the strategic level required for SRbPA will be able to take all the time required to develop a portfolio during worktime. Individuals must consider whether they have the personal capacity and support to pursue registration. They should ask – **is this the right time for me?**

What else is expected of me?

Those offered a place on the support scheme will be expected to complete a pre-application and submit their portfolio within 2 years of the support scheme starting (subject to UKPHR approvals). Some may already have their pre-application approved and just require support with their portfolio. They will be **expected to engage** with all elements of the support, **including feedback to the scheme** for the purposes of evaluation and continuous improvement. If personal, professional or other circumstances change they will be expected to inform the scheme and request support ceases or is paused. Their line managers and DHSC will be informed.

What should applicants ask themselves before applying?

- Have I listened to [UKPHR Introduction to SRbPA process](#), read & understood the [UKPHR FAQs](#), [pre-application guidance](#), [portfolio guidance](#) and [the Know How/Show How competencies](#)?
- Is this really the right route for me?
- Do I meet the eligibility criteria?
- Am I working at the right level across the breadth of competencies?
- Does my line manager/other appropriate Specialist registrant support and corroborate this?
- Do I have the time and capacity to pursue SRbPA registration right now?
- If 'Yes' to all, [apply here](#) by **9am Thursday 8th October**

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