

# The Diploma

IN PUBLIC SERVICES

## How to become a... Scenes of Crime Officer

£17,000-£35,000 per year

Promotion to: senior officer, crime scene manager

### Job Description:

To assess, prioritise and carry out scenes of crime examinations. Responsible for the control and preservation of loci when attending scenes of crime. To locate, preserve, record and recover all available forensic evidence, where appropriate, which assists enquiry officers with their investigations. Prepare statements/reports detailing scene examinations and appear, as required, in court as a witness.

Scenes of Crime officers generally work 40 hours a week including weekends to provide 24/7 service. They can be called out to crime scenes at any time of the day or night. They are based in police stations but travel to wherever a crime has taken place.



### Personal Competencies

Attention to detail  
Interest in Technology & photography  
Work to strict deadlines  
Team worker  
Background in science including lab work  
Problem solving  
Strong communication skills

Tom studied the Advanced Diploma in Public Services. He was interested in work within policing and law enforcement and was soon attracted to the area of scenes of crime.

To make sure he understood the area properly Tom completed his extended project comparing the media portrayal of such work to the realities. His school arranged an employer mentor for him to interview and it soon became clear to Tom that the work was much less glamorous than on TV. Some of those he interviewed mentioned how for there to be a crime scene something terrible had to have happened and this could put a lot of strain on the workers. However everyone found the work rewarding and interesting. Tom felt he understood the sector much more after this experience and still felt that it suited the talents his Diploma had drawn out such as being methodical and accurate as well as physically agile.

Tom successfully applied to complete a degree in Chemistry having taken the subject at A-level for his ASL. In his spare time Tom has started to volunteer with the Samaritans to help him learn how to deal with people who have experienced personal trauma.

For more information try visiting:  
[www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)  
[www.skillsforjustice.com](http://www.skillsforjustice.com)  
[www.forensic.gov.uk](http://www.forensic.gov.uk)  
[www.lgc.co.uk](http://www.lgc.co.uk)  
[www.orchidcellmark.co.uk](http://www.orchidcellmark.co.uk)

### Training and Qualifications

Individual forces set their own entry requirements but it is most likely that a science degree will be the minimum qualification required. If a student is considering a degree in crime scene science or forensic science it is recommended they attend courses accredited with Forensic Skillsmark, the industry-recognised guarantee of excellence.