

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Independent Person will possess the following requirements, to be assessed through an application and interview process.

Essential requirements

1. Personal integrity and a commitment to maintaining high standards in public life.
2. An interest and awareness of the functions of local government relating to governance, in particular the role of elected Members and the relevant Codes of Conduct.
3. Independence and impartiality and therefore must not be a Member, employee or co-opted member of the London Borough of Southwark or Lambeth, and not have held such a post within the previous 5 years. Also must not be an active member of a political party.

The Independent Person may be consulted by a member or co-opted member of the Council against whom an allegation or complaint has been made.

Please note that although the regulations have not yet been made by central government, we expect that current or former independent members of standards committees will be allowed to take up the position of independent person for a transitional period. Independent members who wish to apply are requested to contact Southwark or Lambeth for a discussion on their position.

4. Excellent analytical and evaluation skills in order to advise whether a breach of the Code of Conduct or complaint should be investigated.
5. Excellent communication skills in particular the ability to provide clear rationale for decisions and to explain decision making when required.
6. Experience of dealing with complex and sensitive issues with objectivity and clarity.
7. Flexibility to deal with urgent requests, must also be reliable and committed.
8. Aged 18 or over.

Desirable criteria

9. Knowledge of local government, committees and ethical governance.
10. Awareness of the role of equalities in local government.