

Qualifications Framework Examiner's Report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 2: Investigations Professional Interview Examiner's Report May 2026

General

16 candidates took the Investigations professional interview in May 2026. 12 candidates passed the exam with marks ranging from 41 – 72.

Four scenarios were used in this cycle of professional interviews which took place over the course of Two days.

Candidates are presented with a scenario which they are likely to come across during their careers. They have ten minutes to read the scenario and to make notes. The interview commences and candidates are shown five questions, all of which directly relate to the scenario, enabling the scenario to develop. Candidates have a maximum of twenty minutes to answer the questions presented.

Those candidates who passed had prepared well and were able to apply their knowledge to the scenario and the questions asked, whilst some of the questions were answered to a detailed level, others could have had more in-depth answers which would have resulted in higher marks. Unfortunately, with those who failed they were unable to answer many questions to a suitable standard.

It was noted that a small number of Scottish candidates made the point that they are from Scotland and their legislation is different. All questions are created, checked and assigned to allow candidates from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to be able to answer the questions using their local legislation codes of practice and guidance, therefore this comment is not required.

Other information

Below outlines further information regarding key areas where more marks could have been gained:

- Further explanation around the National intelligence model (NIM) and Intelligence operating model (IOM).
- What the local authority enforcement policy contains and the consequences if not followed.
- Knowledge and understanding of rules relating to unused material and record keeping.
- When preparing the investigation report, including of offences /specimen charges which would then be included in the information documents to court (or equivalent in Scotland).
- The process for obtaining communications data under IPA.
- The process for carrying out surveillance - referring to any codes of practice and own councils RIPA/RIPSA policy, and how the process would be followed.
- The role of an expert witness – referring to the process of engagement of the expert, including terms of reference, letter of instruction, what happens in court as an officer and their duties.