

SFJPC1.3

Deal with customers in writing or electronically



Overview

This unit is part of the Customer Service Theme of Impression and Image. This Theme covers the Customer Service behaviours and processes that have the most impact on the way your customer sees you and your organisation. Remember that customers include everyone you provide a service to. They may be external to your organisation or they may be internal customers.

Some customer service delivery involves communicating with your customer in a way that creates a permanent record either in writing or electronically. This form of communication carries risks and implications that are less likely to apply to a conversation held with your customer face to face or on the telephone. This unit is all about how written or electronic communication can be made effective and can contribute to excellent customer service.

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Performance criteria

Use written or electronic communication effectively

You must be able to:

- P1 operate equipment used to communicate in writing or electronically efficiently and effectively
- P2 ensure that the period of time between exchanges in writing or electronically represents excellent customer service
- P3 use language that is clear and concise
- P4 adapt your use of language to meet the individual needs of your customer
- P5 ensure that the style and tone of your written or electronic communication follows your organisation's guidelines and matches the service offer

Plan and send an effective written or electronic communication

You must be able to:

- P6 anticipate your customer's expectations taking account of any previous exchanges you may have had
- P7 assemble all the information you need to construct the communication.
- P8 plan the objective of your communication
- P9 format your communication following your organisation's guidelines
- P10 open the communication positively to establish a rapport with your customer
- P11 ensure that your customer is aware of the purpose of the communication as early as possible
- P12 summarise the key point of the communication and any actions that you or your customer will take as a result

Handle incoming written or electronic communications effectively

You must be able to:

- P13 read your customer's communication carefully to identify their precise reason for contacting you
- P14 identify what they are seeking as the outcome of the contact
- P15 identify all the options you have for responding to your customer and weigh up the benefits and drawbacks of each
- P16 choose the option that is most likely to lead to customer satisfaction within the service offer
- P17 summarise the outcome of the communication and any actions that you or your customer will take as a result

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance of using clear and concise language
- K2 the additional significance and potential risks involved in committing a communication to a permanent record format
- K3 the effects of style and tone on the reader of a written or electronic communication
- K4 the importance of adapting your language to meet the needs of customers who may find the communication hard to understand
- K5 your organisation's guidelines and procedures relating to written and electronic communication
- K6 how to operate equipment used for producing and sending written or electronic communications
- K7 the importance of keeping your customer informed if there is likely to be any delay in responding to a communication
- K8 the risks associated with the confidentiality of written or electronic communications

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Developed by	Skills for Justice
Version number	1
Date approved	July 2010
Indicative review date	July 2013
Validity	Current
Status	Tailored
Originating organisation	ICS
Original URN	A13
Relevant occupations	Public Services; Public Service Professionals; Government and Related Organisations; Economic Development Officer; Communications Officer
Suite	NOS for Operational Delivery Processing roles; Local Government Skills;
Key words	Operational Delivery, Processing, communicate in writing or electronically, use clear language to communicate, client communication