

## SFJPDPS2.4.6

### Identify external factors that may influence policy development



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#### Overview

Policy development may result from a reaction to current concerns or because of strategic planning and analysis. In either case, the policy will be developed in a long-term context and should take account of macro long-term trends in a number of areas. This unit is all about how policy development work should take account of those longer-term visions of the future.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 identify the drivers of change that are most significant to the policy area under consideration
- P2 research authoritative sources to discover global, regional and national trends within each relevant driver
- P3 identify the certainties and uncertainties of each driver and the implications of those for the policy area under consideration
- P4 identify aspects of each driver of change that can be influenced by government action and those that cannot
- P5 decide on features of policy that must be included because of the implications of each change driver
- P6 decide on potential features of policy that must be excluded because of the implications of each change driver
- P7 present a clear summary of the rationale linking specific change drivers with the policy under consideration

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 specific legislation, regulation, governance and cultural requirements that relate to the nation or region to which the policy will apply
- K2 that the policy formation process involves continuous engagement and partnership with a range of stakeholders meaning that those in policy functions must coordinate and on occasions take the lead but must also constantly seek to ensure that there is full stakeholder engagement
- K3 why Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental (PESTLE) helps to identify external factors that may influence policy development
- K4 why it is important to have a vision of the future and the drivers of change when developing policy
- K5 why drivers of change may impose constraints on policy options
- K6 the sources of information and support to analyse key external factors
- K7 who in government is most likely to be able to influence different aspects of drivers of change
- K8 how levels of uncertainty in forecasts about the future can be expressed and measured
- K9 the principal demographic factors that may impact on policy developments
- K10 key features of the future development of science and technology that may impact on policy development
- K11 aspects of changing attitudes and values that may impact on policy development
- K12 features of globalisation and international relations that will influence future policy development
- K13 characteristics of political institutions that may impact on policy development
- K14 environmental matters which will influence policy development

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#### Additional Information

##### Behaviours

The policy function role demands a high level of professionalism and general professional behaviour that should be taken as read. The most important behaviours that will help you achieve effective performance in this unit are:

##### **Communicating**

1. You present information clearly and concisely so that the link between change drivers and the policy under consideration is fully understood.

##### **Building relationships**

2. You demonstrate a clear understanding of what will matter to each audience for your summary of critical factors.

##### **Problem solving and decision making**

3. You seek to quantify the probabilities of factors that may influence policy development.

##### **Focusing on results**

4. You assess fully the risks of inclusion or exclusion of potential features of policy.

##### **Acting ethically**

5. You identify and raise ethical concerns about reactions to facts about the drivers of change.

##### **Acting strategically**

6. You ensure that you consider all relevant facts when linking change drivers and policy.

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