

We are looking for a new Public Protection Police Officer to lead on safeguarding in the Falkland Islands



Having served 30 years in the police service in the UK, Helen moved to the Falkland Islands in 2019 to become the first Public Protection Officer (PPO). This was an innovative new role that has no easily understood UK equivalent. Our PPO is a detective constable that sits between the Royal Falkland Islands Police (RFIP) and Social Services with responsibility for Safeguarding (adults and children). Whereas UK forces have specialist teams that perform various elements of the safeguarding functions, the PPO for the Falkland Islands is responsible for all aspects of safeguarding including screening referrals, attending strategy meetings and conferences, undertaking Achieving Best Evidence interviews, offender interviews, training police colleagues in safeguarding and undertaking community events to raise awareness of safeguarding issues, overseeing day-to-day management of registered sex offenders and working closely with Probation to manage offenders in the community. Having performed this role for 5 years, Helen is returning to her family in England, and has taken some time to reflect on the role with Nikki Murphy, Head of Social Services to help us to recruit an officer to take her place to ensure we continue to provide an excellent service to the community of the Falkland Islands.

Helen's Reflections on the PPO Role

I don't think there is anything comparable in UK policing, it isn't pigeon-holed in the way work is in the UK. It is so varied and vital. It is a pivotal link between the police and social services. You self-generate a lot of your work, and have the freedom to undertake preventative work. You are trusted to provide advice at all levels on public protection.

Q: How would you describe the role of PPO?

A: Crucial, pivotal, varied!

Working as the Public Protection Officer for the Royal Falkland Islands Police has been one of the most rewarding, interesting and exciting adventures of my life.

I work as part of a small multi-agency set-up providing world class safeguarding to the residents of this diverse and remote islands community.

The best aspect of working in such a small community is that you can actually see the results. You will be kept busy here – and it is really rewarding.

You'll be supported to undertake safeguarding projects and there's always time to interact with people and time to make a difference.

I want to ensure that this crucial police post is filled by the right person. Safeguarding has to be your number one priority.



The Best Bits

Working in an environment where there are good working relationships and excellent lines of communication with other departments, is invaluable. The Multi-agency team works well together. There are appropriate professional differences, but everyone is focussed on achieving the best outcome for the child or adult at the heart of the matter.

It has been refreshing to undertake a professional role with more freedom and less bureaucracy.

You get to do things you wouldn't get to do elsewhere. I have found myself in random situations that are bizarre yet so interesting. For example, stopping traffic because of amorous sealions on the main street or standing on a beach in the middle of the night guarding a mine that had swept ashore. The variety of jobs here is incredible and never dull. Being part of the Overseas Territories community is really fascinating.

Out of work, the best bits have been the wildlife, the scenery, and the space. There is a sense of community and adventure. The people that you meet here are so interesting, many with outrageous backstories – it's fascinating!



Q: What about day-to-day life?

You get comfortable fully-furnished accommodation provided for an affordable rent. There is no travelling to work so there is a better work-life balance.

The cost of living here is different. There is more of a value placed on experiences than material items, so the cost of living isn't prohibitive and quality of life is great. Food and internet are expensive but there is no expenditure on incidentals (car parks, travel to work, etc) so your money goes on a long way. There is a lot to do, getting out in nature, eating out, cinema, bowling, sports, crafts etc. These things are really affordable (or free).

Q: What have been your proudest achievements?

These are all group efforts, because we work so closely with the other agencies, but I am proudest of my role in:

- ◆ Setting up a referral system for safeguarding
- ◆ Establishing a formal Sex offender register and developing a formal process to manage it
- ◆ Setting up the processes for the Child Protection Register
- ◆ Developing and delivering Child Sexual Exploitation training to over 750 people
- ◆ Having the opportunity to represent the Royal Falkland Islands Police at the Coronation
- ◆ Attending a safeguarding conference on Turks and Caicos





Last words from Helen

If you are looking for an exciting challenge in a unique, remote part of the world, with spectacular wildlife, stunning scenery, and wonderful people - then get applying!

As you will be able to tell, we are passionate about this role and determined to find the right person to carry on Helen's good work in providing our community with the very best safeguarding service.

If you feel you have the relevant skills and experiences and you are up for this adventure, we would love to hear from you. Helen would also be happy to speak with anyone wanting to find out more.

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[For more information on the Falkland Islands please visit: https://www.falklands.gov.fk/](https://www.falklands.gov.fk/)