

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Tipperary County Council

Candidate Information Booklet

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Competition Reference: RT/774 Closing Date: 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 15th November, 2024



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General Information

Tipperary County Council is one of 31 Local Authorities in the Republic of Ireland. The Council has responsibility for the delivery of a wide range of services which are necessary to the physical, economic, social and cultural life of County Tipperary, with a focus on making County Tipperary an attractive place to live, work and invest.

The following comprises the areas of service delivery in Tipperary County Council:

Community, Economic Development & Tourism	Fire & Emergency Services – Civil Defence
Local Enterprise	Environment & Climate Action
Planning & Development	Finance
Cultural & Recreational Services	Information Systems
Roads & Transportation	Corporate Services & Human
	Resources
Water Services	Library Services
Housing	Local Authorities Waters
	Programme

This competition presents an opportunity to gain employment with Tipperary County Council in the role of **Assistant Chief Fire Officer.**

Tipperary County Council is committed to a policy of open and fair recruitment, in line with good practice, recruitment & selection standards, employment legislation and relevant circulars from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

This Candidate Information Booklet is intended to provide information on the post of **Assistant Chief Fire Officer** and the selection process and candidates are advised to familiarize themselves with the detailed information in advance of submitting their application.

Candidates should satisfy themselves that they are eligible under the Qualifications to apply for the post of **Assistant Chief Fire Officer**.

Where a candidate provides false or misleading information or has deliberately omitted relevant information on their application form this may result in their disqualification from the competition.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer

The Role

Tipperary Fire & Rescue Service fulfils the obligations of Tipperary County Council under Section 10 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 by the provision, equipping and training of fire brigades in 12 fire stations located throughout its administrative area. It receives and responding to approximately 1800 emergency calls per annum

It also monitors and enforces fire safety in the built environment under Section 18 of the Act through inspection and the giving of advice to building owners and the wide community. It also discharges the Building Control Function on behalf of Tipperary County Council. The co-ordination of Tipperary County Councils major emergency response preparations is carried out by Tipperary Fire & Service.

The **Assistant Chief Fire Officer** will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team delivering these key functions and reporting to the Chief Fire Officer or a delegated line manager.

Reporting to the Chief Fire Officer or his nominee, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer will work as part of a team while also at times being required to work independently on their own initiative as circumstances demand.

The role requires a clear knowledge and understanding of local authority services and its key stakeholders and relationships, local government structures and its democratic role and mandate, current local government issues, future trends and strategic direction of the sector, management and implementation of change, and Public Works Contracts

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer shall operate under the direction of and report to the Senior Fire Officer of the section to which they are assigned. They must undertake those duties as assigned to them by their Supervisor.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer shall also report to the Director of Service of the section to which they are assigned or any other person designated by the Director of Service.

<u>The Person</u>

Candidates will demonstrate through their application form and at the interview that he/she has:

- Project Management Skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- People management skills
- Budgetary Management Skills
- Negotiation and leadership skills

- An excellent understanding of Health and Safety legislation and regulations and their application in the workplace.
- An ability to prepare and present technical reports
- An ability to interpret and undertake critical analysis of scientific data
- Problem solving skills
- Competence in the operation of ICT Systems

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

The duties of the office are to give the local authority and

(a)such other local authorities or bodies for which the Chief Executive, for the purposes of the City and County Management Acts, is Manager and

(b)to any other local authority or body with which an agreement has been made by the local authority or by any of the authorities or bodies mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph,

under the direction and supervision of the Chief Executive or other appropriate officer of the local authority such technical services of an advisory, supervisory or executive nature as may be required by any local authority or body hereinbefore mentioned in the exercise and performance of any of its powers, functions and duties including the duty of assisting the Chief Executive or other appropriate officer in the supervision of such services of any of the foregoing local authorities or bodies, and, when required to do so, to perform the duty of acting for the appropriate officer of higher rank during that officer's absence.

The duties of the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer include, but are not limited to:

Fire Prevention, including

- processing of fire safety certification applications & licensing applications,
- Carrying of inspections under the Fire Services Acts, Building Control Act and other relevant legislation.
- Represent the Fire Authority in dealing with applications before the Courts
- Manage Community Fire Safety including the Primary Schools Programme
- Give advice and talks on fire safety to all members of our community which maybe out of normal working hours.

Fire Service Operations, including

- Organising & attending training courses & weekly on-station training,
- vehicle, equipment & station maintenance & upgrading
- Management of fire stations & staff

- Developing & updating pre-incident plans
- Attend incidents as an authorised rostered senior fire officer, drill nights and exercises out of normal working hours.
- Participation in the Senior Fire Officers Roster in accordance with the 1996 Rostering Agreement (or as amended)

Building Control, including

- Assessment of Commencement Notices and other applications through the BCMS
- Assessment of Disability Access Certificates
- Inspection of buildings and works for compliance with the Building Regulations
- Represent the Fire Authority before the courts in relation to Enforcement proceedings
- Give advice on compliance with the Building Regulations and Building Control Regulations
- Dangerous Structure and Dangerous Place Inspections and Associated File Management
- Market Surveillance under the Construction Product Regulations
- BER surveillance and enforcement.

Major Emergency Management, including

- Management of Laois County Councils Major Emergency Plan
- Participate in both local & regional MEM training

Health & Safety, including

Managing & operating the safety management system Carrying out risk assessments of equipment, training, training locations etc

Rostering Agreement

The terms of the Senior Fire Officer Rostering Agreement 1996 (or as amended) will apply to this employment.

Qualifications

Essential Requirements

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government has declared that the qualifications for the position of Assistant Chief Fire Officer shall be as set out hereunder: -

Character:

Each candidate must be of good character.

Health :

Each candidate shall be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

Education, Training, Experience, etc

Each Candidate must, on the latest date for receipt of completed application forms for the office –

(a) Hold, in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- a degree at Level 8 in engineering, architecture, or other building construction related discipline, or
- a professional qualification equivalent to one of the foregoing awarded by the relevant professional body, or
- a degree at Level 8 in a science or technology related discipline including, physics, chemistry, environmental or computer science, information communications technology, or a fire related discipline including fire safety, emergency management or emergency services, or
- a degree at Level 8 together with a Level 9 qualification in a fire related discipline including fire safety, emergency management or emergency services.

(b)Have a satisfactory knowledge of one or more of the following:

- principles and practices of fire safety,
- fire service operations
- major emergency management
- technological and industrial processes
- telecommunications and information technology

(c)Have at least five years satisfactory relevant experience, including adequate experience in at least one of the areas specified at (b) above

(d)Have a high standard of training in one or more of the areas specified in (b) above.

(e)Have successfully completed a 2 week fire-fighter recruit course to a syllabus approved by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management or equivalent.

(f)Have successfully completed a 2 week Breathing Apparatus course to a syllabus approved by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management or equivalent.

Be competent to perform efficiently the duties of the office and possess the appropriate qualities.

<u>Salary:</u>

Current Salary Scale: Salary: €57,909 - €80,498 (2nd LSI)

The salary shall be fully inclusive and shall be as determined from time to time. The employee shall pay to the local authority any fees or other monies (other than his/her inclusive salary) payable to or received by him/her by virtue of his/her employment or in respect of services which he/she is required by or under any enactment to perform.

Entry point of this scale will be determined in accordance with Circulars issued by the by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. In accordance with Departmental Circular letter EL 02/2011, a person who is not a serving local authority employee on or after 1st January 2011, will enter the scale for the position at the minimum point (currently \in 57,909).

Remuneration is paid fortnightly by PayPath directly to the employee's nominated bank account. The current wage pay cycle may be revised during the period of employment.

Remuneration is subject to all statutory deductions, e.g. P.A.Y.E. and P.R.S.I. Increments are paid annually subject to satisfactory attendance, conduct and performance and national agreements. Increments may be withheld if performance, attendance and/or conduct are not satisfactory.

Under the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013, the working hours for newly appointed/promoted staff are 37 hours per week. All posts will be offered on the basis of the candidate working wholetime.

<u>Citizenship</u>

Candidates must, by the date of any job offer, be:

- a) A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or
- b) A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or
- c) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or
- d) A non-EEA citizen who is a spouse or child of an EEA or UK or Swiss citizen and has a stamp 4 visa; or
- e) A person awarded international protection under the International Protection Act 2015 or any family member entitled to remain in the State as a result of family reunification and has a stamp 4 visa; or A non-EEA citizen who is a parent of a dependent child who is a citizen of, and resident in, an EEA member state or the UK or Switzerland and has a stamp 4 visa.

Probation:

Where a person who is not already a permanent officer of Tipperary County Council is appointed, the following provisions shall apply:-

- (a) there shall be a period after such appointment takes effect, during which such person shall hold office on probation;
- (b) such period shall be one year but the Chief Executive may, at his or her discretion extend such a period.
- (c) such a person shall cease to hold office at the end of the period of probation, unless during such period, the Chief Executive has certified that the service of such person is satisfactory.

Superannuation:

The relevant Superannuation Scheme will apply.

The provisions of the Local Government (Superannuation) (Consolidation) Scheme 1998 may apply.

Persons who become pensionable officers who are liable to pay the Class A rate of PRSI contribution will be required, in respect of their superannuation contribution, to contribute to the local authority as follows:

1.5% of their pensionable remuneration

plus

3.5% of <u>net</u> pensionable remuneration (pensionable remuneration less twice the annual rate of social insurance old age contributory pension payable at the maximum rate to a person with no adult dependent or qualified children).

Persons who become pensionable officers who are liable to pay the Class D rate of PRSI contribution will be required, in respect of their superannuation contribution, to contribute to the local authority at the rate of 5% of their pensionable remuneration.

The provisions of the Spouses and Children's/Widows and Orphans Contributory Pension Scheme will continue to apply.

New entrants will be admitted to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme with effect from the date of appointment. The scheme is contributory and provides pension, retirement gratuity, death gratuity and survivors benefits. To qualify for a pension the successful candidate must have served a minimum of two years employment in a Local Authority.

<u>Retirement Age</u>

There is no mandatory retirement age for new entrants to the public service as defined in the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004.

Anyone who is not a new entrant to the public service, as defined in the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004, is subject to a compulsory retirement age of 70 years or as determined in accordance with Department Circulars and in line with Government Policy.

The maximum retirement age for new entrants as defined by the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 is 70 years.

The Council may refer staff to a medical advisor at any time to determine fitness for carrying out the duties to which they have been assigned.

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector.

Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

Hours of Work:

The normal working hours are 35 hours per week. Flexible working arrangements apply. All hours worked are subject to and recorded in accordance with the provisions of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997, and the Organisation of Working Time Regulations, 2001. Tipperary County Council requires employees to record their hours using the CORE/TDS Clocking system.

Annual Leave:

The annual leave entitlement for the grade is 30 days per annum.

The Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council retains autonomy with regard to office closures, (e.g. Christmas Office Closure); any days arising from such closure will be reserved from the employee's annual leave entitlement. Proposed office closure days will be reviewed and advised to all employees each year.

Residence:

The succesful candidate shall reside in the district in which his/her duties are to be performed, or within a reasonable distance thereof.

Drivers Licence:

Tipperary County Council employees may on occasion be required to use their car on official business. In such situations the employee must hold a current clean driver's licence and have available adequate means of transport.

It is the responsibility of the employee to arrange the appropriate car insurance for business use and to indemnify Tipperary County Council with the indeminty specified on the insurance certificate under the heading "Persons or classes of person who are covered". Documentation to confirm the appropriate insurance cover will be required to be supplied to the Council on an annual basis.

Code of Conduct/Organisational Policies:

Employees are be required to adhere to all current and future Tipperary County Council codes of practice including Code of Conduct of Employees and all current and future organisational policies including, but not limited to Health and Safety, Communications, Data Protection, Equality, Staff Mobility, Attendance Management and Use of Electronic Equipment. A full list of relevant policies is contained on the council Intranet.

<u>Training:</u>

Employees are required to attend and participate fully in training programmes as may be decided by the Council from time to time and to apply their learning in the course of their daily working activities.

Location of assignment/appointment:

Tipperary County Council reserves the right to assign the successful candidate to any premises in use by the Council, now or in the future.

The person appointed will be required to report to their place of work by their own means of transport and at their own expense.

Commencement:

Tipperary County Council shall require a person to whom an appointment is offered to take up such appointment within a period of not more than one month (subject to notice requirements) and if they fail to take up the appointment within such period or such other longer period as the Council in its absolute discretion may determine, Tipperary County Council shall not appoint them.

Reporting Arrangements:

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer will report directly to the appropriate supervisor in the Section or to any other employee of Tipperary County Council as the Chief Executive, Director of Services or other appropriate employee may designate for this purpose. A system of regular appraisal (PMDS) will be operated during employment, which will involve discussions between the employee and the line manager regarding performance and conduct.

Health & Safety:

Tipperary County Council as an Employer is obliged to ensure, in so far as it is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work of all of its employees. Under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the County Council has a legal duty to exercise all due care and take all protective and preventative measures to protect the Safety, Health and Welfare of its employees.

All employees also have a legal obligation under Safety and Health legislation to co-operate with management and not engage in any improper conduct or behaviour or do anything, which would place themselves or others at risk.

Employees must not be under the influence of an intoxicant at the place of work. Employees must comply with all Safety and Health rules and regulations and attend all required Safety and Health Training.

Tipperary County Council operates under ISO 45001 accreditation. All employees are required to cooperate with the implementation of any and all measures necessary to achieve and sustain same.

The Application Process:

Once fully completed, application forms will be accepted.

Please ensure that:

- 1. Your application is made on the official application form only CV's should not be included. (Note: a C.V. <u>will not</u> be accepted as an application or as part of an application).
- 2. You have fully completed all sections of the application form and included all relevant, detailed and accurate information. **Note:** any offer of employment is subject to the information given on your application form being true. False/misleading information or deliberate ommisions may result in termination of employment.
- 3. You attach a copy of your educational certificates.
- You submit your typed application, to be received by the Human Resources Section, Tipperary County Council, Civic Offices, Emmett Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, E91 N512 on or before 4:00p.m. on Friday, 15th November, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be accepted and any claim in relation to the late receipt of application forms will not be entertained. The admission of a person to this competition, or an invitation to attend for interview is not to be taken as implying that Tipperary County Council is satisfied that such person fulfills the requirements.

Tipperary County Council may need to contact you during the selection process. It is important that your contact details (phone number, postal and email address) as given on your application form are correct and are accessible by you at all times.

Tipperary County Council accepts no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by the applicant.

The Selection Process:

Tipperary County Council reserves the right to shortlist applications if required.

This is not to suggest that any candidate may be unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the duties of the post advertised, but rather that there may be candidates who have demonstrated that they are better qualified and/or have more relevant experience.

Step 1: Initial Screening

In the first instance, all applications received by the latest date/time for receipt of completed applications are screened for elegibility in accordance with the Qualifications for the post as set out in this booklet.

Step 2: Shortlisting

Each candidate's application may be assessed against pre-determined criteria based on the requirements of the position as outlined in this booklet. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to provide a detailed and accurate account of their qualifications and/or experience in their application form and to outline the relevance of their application.

Step 3: Interview

Candidates who are successful in the shortlisting process will be invited to attend for interview(s).

Tipperary County Council will endeavour to give sufficient notice of the scheduled interview time and date to shortlisted candidates. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the candidate to make themselves available on time and on the date advised. Candidates who do not attend for interview on the date and time advised will be deemed to have withdrawn their application from the competition. Expenses incurred by candidates in attending for interview, will be at the candidates own expense.

An independent interview board will be established by the Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council to assess the candidates shortlisted for interview.

The Interview board will generally comprise a Chairperson and two other members, who will have expert knowledge in the relevant field. The objective of the interview board is to identify candidates who best meet the objective criteria and competencies required for the position and to place them in order of merit. Candidates who are successful in the interview will be qualified in order of merit for appointment to the post of **Assistant Chief Fire Officer** and placed on a panel.

It should be noted that placement on a panel may not necessarily lead to a job offer. The selection process is not concluded until such time as references have been sought and clearance checks, i.e. Garda vetting, occupational health, verification of education qualifications, etc, have been carried out to the satisfaction of the Council.

Key Competencies:

At interview, candidates will be assessed under the following competencies using some/all of the indicators listed **in addition to** local Government knowledge and understanding:

Management & Change

- Works with the team to facilitate high performance, developing clear and realistic objectives and addressing performance issues if they arise.
- Displays the ability to think and act strategically from a management and engineering perspective.
- Provides clear information and advice as to what is required of the team.
- Strives to develop and implement new ways of working effectively to meet objectives.
- Leads the team by example, coaching and supporting individuals as required including managing underperformance.
- Places high importance on staff development, training and maximising skills & capacity of team.
- Demonstrates enthusiasm for new developments/changing work practices and strives to implement these changes effectively.

Problem Solving & Decision Making

- Gathers and analyses information from relevant sources, whether financial, numerical or otherwise weighing up a range of critical factors.
- Makes timely informed and effective decisions and shows good judgement and balance in making decisions or recommendations.
- Takes account of broader issues, agendas, sensitivities and related implications when making decisions.
- Uses previous knowledge and experience in order to guide decisions.
- Uses judgement to make sound decisions with a well reasoned rationale and stands by these.
- Puts forward solutions to address problems.

Managing Resources

- Takes responsibility and is accountable for the delivery of agreed objectives.
- Successfully manages a range of different projects and work activities at the same time.
- Structures and organises their own work and others work effectively.

- Is logical and pragmatic in approach, delivering the best possible results with the resources available.
- Delegates work effectively, providing clear information and evidence as to what is required.
- Proactively identifies areas for improvement and develops practical suggestions for their implementation.
- Applies appropriate systems/processes to enable quality checking of all activities and outputs.
- Practices and promotes a strong focus on deliving a high quality customer service, for internal and external customers.

Personal Effectiveness

- Is self-motivated and maintains a positive constructive and enthusiastic attitude to their role.
- Manages time and workload effectively with particular reference to statutory obligations and timeframes.
- Demonstrates the required specialist technical knowledge, understanding and training for the role.
- Personal Motivation, Initiative and Achievement; is enthusiastic about the role and sets challenging goals to achieve high quality outcomes.
- Behaves in an honest, trustworthy and respectful manner and is transparent, fair and consistent in dealing with others.

Feedback:

Candidates shall be notified of the outcome of each stage of the selection process at the earliest possible date.

If, following the interview, a candidate is placed on a panel they shall be informed of their position on the panel. Details of marks attained in the interview process will be provided upon receipt of written request.

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn:

Candidates who do not attend for interview or other test when and where required by the Tipperary County Council, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as required by Tipperary County Council within the specified timeframe with regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will be deemed to have withdrawn their application from the competition.

Should a candidate decline an offer of employment, or having accepted an offer of employment relinquish it prior to commencing in the post, they will be deemed to have withdrawn their application from the competition.

References:

Applicants are required to advise the names of two responsible persons to whom they are well known but not related (at least one of the referees should be an existing or former employer).

In advance of any offer of employment, Tipperary County Council reserves the right to seek both written and verbal references from current and previous employers, educational institutions or any other organisations with which the candidate has been associated. The Council reserves the right to determine the merit, appropriateness and relevance of such references and referees.

Verification of Educational Qualifications:

Prior to appointment the candidate will be required to present within a specified timeframe, the original parchment of their certificate, diploma and/or degree, and any other supporting documentation required by the Council*, to the Human Resources department in order to verify their qualifications.

* Non Irish Qualifications must be accompanied by a determination from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) to establish their comparability against the Irish National Framework of Qualifications, overseas qualifications must also be accompanied by a translation document.

Pre-Employment Medical:

Prior to appointment the candidate may be required to complete a Health Declaration and will be required to undergo a medical examination by a qualified

medical practitioner nominated by the Council. Where for any reason the cost of the medical examination is borne by the applicant it shall be refunded on appointment. In all other cases the Council will incur the cost of the preemployment medical.

Garda Vetting:

Garda Vetting may be sought in accordance the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and the applicant will be required to fully cooperate with this process.

Canvassing:

Any attempt by a candidate, or by any person(s) acting at the candidate's instigation, directly or indirectly, by means of written communication or otherwise influence in the candidate's favour, any member or employee of the Council or person nominated by the County Council to interview or examine applicants, will automatically disqualify the candidate for the position being sought.

Confidentiality:

Tipperary County Council, in its recruitment and selection procedures, has appropriate measures in place to protect the confidentiality of all applicants. All enquiries, applications and other aspects that form part of the recruitment formalities are treated as confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside of those directly involved in the recruitment process - subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997-2014.

Records created, maintained and stored by Tipperary County Council as part of the recruitment and selection process are subject to a range of legislation, including Freedom of Information and Data Protection. Tipperary County Council shall comply with the National Records Retention Policy (2001) and any other relevant records retention policies.

General Data Protection Regulation:

Tipperary County Council is committed to protecting your personal data and we comply with our obligations under the Data Protection Acts, 1988 – 2018, and the General Data Protection Regulation.

Basis for Processing your Personal Information

The basis for processing your personal data is to process your application for the position you have applied for with Tipperary County Council under the Terms of the Employment (Information) Act 1994 and Human Resources Department policies and procedures.

Personal data sought for the purpose of recruitment will include your name, your contact details including email address and mobile number, particulars of education, details regarding your record of employment, details of

referees and confirmation of if you require an employment permit/visa/ or work authorisation.

When your application form is received, we create a computer record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature. You are entitled to obtain at any time, a copy of information about you, which is kept on computer.

Sharing of Information

Outside of the relevant recruitment team, the information provided in your application form will only be shared for progressing the competition for which you have applied for, with a designated short-listing and/or interview board.

If, following the competition, you are placed on a Panel and offered a position, the information provided in your application form will form part of your Personnel File and may be used for deciding the post to which you are assigned.

Furthermore, should you be offered a position and subsequently confirm your interest in the position, the information provided on your application form will be used to request service records, employment references and/or character references as required.

Storage period

Your application will be retained for one year from the date a panel for this position is formed. In exceptional circumstances panels can be extended for an additional year and your personal data will be kept until the extension has expired (usually a further one year, rarely two years). You will be notified if the panel has been extended after one year and the new expiry date of the panel.

Applications which are unsuccessful at interview stage will be retained for one year. Applications that are not progressed to interview stage will be destroyed post competition.

If you do not furnish the personal data requested, Tipperary County Council will not be able to progress your application form for the competition for which you are applying.

Imporant Notice -The above represents the principal conditions of service and is not intended to be the comprehensive list of all terms

and conditions of employment which will be set out in the employment contract to be agreed with successful candidates.



