

Everything starts with a Q.

IF YOU MOVED INTO THE PRIVATE
SECTOR TOMORROW, WOULD AN
EMPLOYER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU
CAN ACTUALLY DO?

One question worth asking every week.

OpsQ
Group

Question. Solve. Deliver.

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If you moved into the private sector tomorrow, would an employer understand what you can actually do?

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WHY WE'RE ASKING IT

People working in policing and the wider public sector often build years of valuable experience without necessarily thinking about how that experience translates outside the environment they work in.

Leadership. Decision-making. Risk management. Investigations. Operations. Stakeholder management. Problem solving. Managing people. Delivering under pressure.

The experience is there.

But here's the question: would a private-sector employer recognise it?

The language can get in the way

Every organisation develops its own language.

In policing and the public sector, that can mean ranks, grades, departments, acronyms, specialist terminology and ways of describing responsibilities that make complete sense internally.

Outside that environment, they may mean very little.

Someone reading your CV shouldn't have to work out what your experience means.

You need to translate it for them.

Your job title doesn't tell the whole story

Two people can have completely different job titles and still possess many of the same capabilities.

Instead of concentrating only on your title, ask what you actually do.

• Lead or develop people?

• Manage competing priorities?

• Make difficult decisions?	• Assess and manage risk?
• Investigate complex problems?	• Work with multiple stakeholders?
• Improve processes?	• Manage performance?
• Deliver change?	• Communicate with challenging or diverse audiences?
• Take responsibility for important outcomes?	

Those capabilities exist well beyond the public sector.

The challenge is demonstrating them in a way another employer understands.

Don't assume your experience speaks for itself

It probably doesn't.

That's not because it lacks value.

It's because the person reading your CV or LinkedIn profile may have no understanding of the environment you've worked in.

Something you consider routine could actually demonstrate significant leadership, judgement, resilience or operational capability.

But unless you explain the responsibility, your contribution and the outcome, an employer may never see it.

Start with where you want to go

There's another question worth asking before rewriting your CV:

What do you actually want to do next?

You don't need to have every detail worked out.

But understanding the types of roles, organisations or industries that interest you makes it much easier to decide which parts of your experience matter most.

The objective isn't to make your experience sound more impressive.

It's to make it relevant.

You aren't starting again

Moving from policing or the wider public sector into the private sector can feel like starting from scratch.

Usually, it isn't.

You're taking years of experience with you.

The task is to understand which parts transfer, where they could create value and how to communicate them effectively.

Your CV needs to do that.

Your LinkedIn profile needs to do that.

And when you get to interview, you need to be able to do that.

"So perhaps the question isn't: What could I do outside the public sector?"

Perhaps it's: How do I help the right employer understand what I can already do?"

Thinking about making the move?

We've also published a new OpsQ Insight specifically looking at the transition from policing into the private sector.

[Leaving the Police for the Private Sector: How to Translate Your Experience Into a Career Employers Understand](#)

And if you're considering a move from policing or the wider public sector and aren't sure where to start, OpsQ can help with career direction, CV and LinkedIn positioning, interview preparation and the wider transition.

Start with a conversation.

Question. Solve. Deliver.

PUBLIC SECTOR TO PRIVATE SECTOR

Make your experience clear, relevant and credible.

Practical support with career direction, CV and LinkedIn positioning, interview preparation and the wider transition.

[Explore support at opsq.co.uk](https://opsq.co.uk)

The takeaway

The person reading your CV or LinkedIn profile doesn't know what your previous role involved.

Your task is to make your experience understandable, relevant and credible to the employer you want to reach.

That means translating the language, showing the capability behind the title, and explaining the responsibility, contribution and outcome.

Everything starts with a question.

THE Q

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