

Anticipated Process Dates for Wholetime Recruitment 2026/27



The Wholetime Firefighter Recruitment Process for 2026 opens on Monday 16th February 2026. Applications will be open for 4 weeks closing on Monday 16th March 2026.

The anticipated key process dates are detailed below – these are subject to change due to resourcing availability.

Please ensure you are familiar with the anticipated timeframes and that you are available to attend should you be successful at the various stages of the process.

| Timeframe | Stage of the Process |
|---|--|
| 16 th February 2026 | Advert – Portal opens for applications |
| 16 th March 2026 | Application Deadline |
| 17 th March – 8 th April | Shortlisting process |
| 16 th April – 24 th April | Group Exercise |
| 5 th May – 8 th May | Physical Tests |
| 15 th May & 18 th May | Functional Skills In person at HQ |
| 20 th May – 3 rd June | Interview |
| 15 th June – 26 th June | Medicals / Fitness Tests / Mask Fitting / DBS checks (4 days TBC). Plus Apprentice skill scans |
| 2 nd July & 3 rd July | Kit Fitting (1 day –TBC) Skill scans with Apprenticeship provider |
| 6 th - 10 th July | Outcomes |
| September 2026 | Anticipated cohort start date |

Please note: While stages of the process have been allocated a timeframe there will only be a set number of days allocated within this timeframe that will be 'process days' for example only 2 to 3 days between the 5th and 8th May 2026 will be physical testing days.

Disclaimer: The guidance provided at the start Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service recruitment process is accurate at the time of issue. However, the process may be amended without prior notice to reflect organisational priorities, operational requirement or changes in policy. Any significant changes will be communicated to all applicants to ensure the process remains fair, consistent and transparent.