

Demonstrating higher level claims

In addition to the guidance in the *Defined Specialist Framework and Guidance* (Section 4, paras 4.2 and 4.3), **applicants should ensure that criterion (1) below and/or a combination of criteria 2-4 below are met by their evidence. Assessors use these criteria to consider higher level claims.**

Applicants do not need to meet all of these criteria – this will depend on the balance between depth (e.g. provision of highly expert advice – criterion 1) and breadth (e.g. wide geographical coverage, organisational complexity) in the evidence submitted.

- 1. Providing and being recognised for highly specialised expert advice and professional support to others, reflecting advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, in your area of higher level practice**
- 2. Proactively driving forward and initiating action in complex situations, services or functions in your area of higher level practice, requiring analysis and comparison of a range of options, and overt integration of theory, evidence and practice**
- 3. Taking a high degree of independent responsibility and decision-making for complex programmes and/or partnerships in your area of higher level practice, from identification and development to implementation, delivery and evaluation**
- 4. Formulation of both short-term and long-term strategic plans within your area of higher level practice, involving uncertainty and with considerable breadth (e.g. across organisational boundaries, within a complex and changing strategic environment) or depth/complexity (e.g. a specialised function) of scope as appropriate**

The following criteria may also be useful in judging whether or not evidence is at a higher level, although in and of themselves they may not discriminate adequately between generalist and higher levels, as one or more of them can also be expected of generalist level evidence.

5. Providing and receiving highly complex, sensitive or contentious information in a hostile, antagonistic or highly emotive atmosphere
6. Providing strategic direction to others
7. Management of substantial budgets and/or staff and/or networks with multiple partners