

The Parish of St Laurence, Blackmore

Policy Statement Regarding the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

The following policy statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 25 January 2023 and is based upon the model statement produced by the Diocese of Chelmsford

In the following Policy Statement, the term 'we' refers to the PCC of The Parish of St Laurence Blackmore

Policy Statement

1. As an organisation assessing applicants' suitability for positions which are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974¹ (Exceptions) Order using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), we comply fully with the code of practice² and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly
2. We undertake not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed
3. We can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that we are legally entitled to know about³. Where a DBS certificate at either standard or enhanced level can legally be requested (where the position is one that is included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended, and where appropriate Police Act Regulations as amended)
4. We can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected
5. We are committed to the fair treatment of staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion (subject to Genuine Occupational Requirements), sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background
6. We have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is made available to all DBS applicants at the start of the recruitment process
7. We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records
8. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience

¹ Full text available here: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/53

² DBS Code of Practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice

³ Where the position is one that is included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended, and where appropriate Police Act Regulations as amended.

9. An application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a criminal record check is identified as necessary, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate will be submitted in the event of the individual being offered the position
10. We ensure that all those who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offence
11. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
12. At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment
13. We make every subject of a criminal record check submitted to DBS aware of the existence of the code of practice⁴ and make a copy available on request
14. We undertake to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

⁴ DBS Code of Practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice