

Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders

As an organisation using the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, the Diocese of Worcester complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.

This written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is made available to all Disclosure applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.

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. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.

A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a disclosure is required all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of an individual being offered the position.

Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information ('Confidential Self Declaration') is sent under separate, confidential cover to a designated person within the Diocese of Worcester and we guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

Unless the nature of the position allows the Diocese of Worcester to ask questions about an entire criminal record we only ask about "unspent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

We ensure that all those in the Diocese of Worcester who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, eg the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

At interview, or in 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.

We make every subject of a DBS Disclosure aware of the existence of the DBS Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.

We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.