

During our recruitment procedure we take steps to assess an applicant's suitability for such a position of trust. It is important that you understand the nature of the checks that we will make and when we will make them.

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 sets out to help people who have been convicted of a criminal offence and have not been convicted again in a specified period. This period is known as a rehabilitation period. Once a rehabilitation period has expired and no further offending has taken place, a conviction is considered to be 'spent'. Once a conviction is spent, the convicted person does not have to reveal it or admit its existence in most circumstances.

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 [Exceptions Order] gives some **exemptions** from the Act, whereby details of 'spent' convictions have to be declared. One of these exemptions is working with children, young people* and/or vulnerable adults. When recruiting people to work in such positions of trust an employer is entitled to ask for details of all convictions, spent and 'unspent'.

If we ask you to come for an interview please bring the following with you

- **A completed Declaration of Criminal Background Information Form**

This form will be enclosed with the letter inviting you to interview. It asks for details of spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings. You should complete the form and place it in an envelope marked 'Private and Confidential'. Your name should be clearly stated on the front.

- **Proof of identity**

We require one form of photographic identification (e.g a passport or new form of driving licence) one addressed item such as a recent utility bill, recent bank statement or current Council Tax bill, your Birth Certificate and proof of your National Insurance number. If this is a problem please contact us.

The information relating to criminal convictions will only be seen by the interview panel if we are considering offering you employment. If you wish to discuss the information that you have given, please mention this to an interviewer. Having made its selection, the panel may wish to discuss any information given with you. Having a conviction will not necessarily bar you from consideration for the post. Criminal records will be taken into account only when they are relevant to the position for which you are applying. Our policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is given overleaf.

If you are made a conditional offer you must apply for an Enhanced Level Disclosure statement from the DBS. We will do this on your behalf.

The Disclosure service offers organisations a means to check the background of job applicants to ensure that they do not have a history that would make them unsuitable for the post. Disclosure statements are provided by the Disclosure & Barring Service, an executive agency of the Home Office. Higher level disclosure statements provide details of a person's criminal record including convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings; they also contain details from lists held by Government departments of those considered unsuitable for this type of work. Organisations using the Disclosure system must comply with a Code of Practice, a copy of which is available on request.