
POLICY STATEMENT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF EX-OFFENDERS

1. As an organisation using the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and/or the Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) Disclosure Service and/or AccessNI to assist in assessing applicants suitability for positions of trust, the company complies fully with the CRB/SCRO/AccessNI Code of Practice (a copy of which is available on request) and undertakes to treat all applicants for all posts fairly. The company will not discriminate unfairly against any subject of a disclosure on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
2. We actively promote equality of opportunity for all and we select all candidates for interview on the basis of their talent, skills, qualifications and experience. We welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.
3. A disclosure is only requested where it is legally required or after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. Where a disclosure will be required from a successful candidate, all applicants will be made aware of this at all stages of the recruitment process.
4. Where 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.
5. Unless the nature of the position allows the company to ask questions about a candidate's entire criminal record we only ask about "unspent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders legislation.
6. We ensure that all those in the company 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.
7. 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 may be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer or termination of employment.
8. We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer or terminating employment.
9. Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar an applicant from working for us. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of the offences.