



OVMC Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy

Parishes in the OVMC

Alfington

Colaton Raleigh

Feniton w Escot

Harpford

Newton Poppleford

Ottery St Mary with Wiggaton

Payhembury

Tipton St John with Venn Ottery

West Hill

1. as an organisation which assesses applicants' suitability for positions which are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), each parish in the OVMC complies fully with the code of practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice>
2. Parishes in the OVMC undertake not to discriminate unfairly against any person subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed
3. Parishes in the OVMC can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that [insert Parish Name] are legally entitled to know about, 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. Parishes in the OVMC can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not 'protected'
5. Parishes in the OVMC are committed to the fair treatment of its staff (paid and voluntary), potential staff/officers or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependents, age, physical/mental disability or offending background (subject to points 3,4 and 11).
6. Parishes in the OVMC will make this written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, available to all applicants at the start of the recruitment process
7. Parishes in the OVMC 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. Parishes in the OVMC select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience (excepting where there is an 'occupational requirement' as laid out under the terms of the Equality Act 2010)
9. an application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough 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, role/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 considered for the position
10. Parishes in the OVMC ensure that those in Parishes in the OVMC who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences under the guidance of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team
11. any disclosure of a caution or conviction, whether for a serious violent and/or sexual offence or a conviction resulting in a custodial sentence (whether or not suspended), or other intelligence information disclosed, will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for an initial assessment and they will consult as appropriate with the individual responsible for the recruitment process as to whether the disclosure may affect suitability for the role.
12. at interview, or in a separate discussion, Parishes in the OVMC 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. Parishes in the OVMC make every person subject of a criminal record check submitted to DBS aware of the existence of the code of practice and makes a copy available on request
14. Parishes in the OVMC undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
15. Parishes in the OVMC will apply this policy to employed/paid and volunteer roles.

Agreed by OVMC wardens on 3/2/2025

Date for review February 2026

