

The Parochial Church Council of Bursledon Group Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

- As an organisation assessing 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), [Organisation Name] complies fully with the [DBS code of practice](#) and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.
- Bursledon Parish undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
- Bursledon Parish can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that Bursledon Parish are legally entitled to know about. A DBS certificate at 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 in the appropriate Police Act Regulations as amended.
- Bursledon Parish can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected.
- Bursledon Parish is committed to the fair treatment of its staff and volunteers, potential staff and volunteers, or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependents, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.
- This policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders is made available to all DBS applicants at the start of the recruitment process.
- Bursledon Parish actively promotes equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcomes applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.
- Bursledon Parish select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.
- 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.
- Bursledon Parish ensures that all those in the church who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. Bursledon Parish also ensures 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.

- At interview, or in a separate discussion, Bursledon Parish ensures 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 or voluntary position.
- Bursledon Parish makes every 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.
- Bursledon Parish undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment or voluntary position.

Approved by PCC meeting of: 14th July 2025. (Date)

Signed by: PCC Chair  (Signature)

John Paulson (Name)

14 JULY 2025. (Date)

Parish Safeguarding Officer  (Signature)

PETER TAYLOR (Name)

21/7/25 (Date)