



Dereham & District
Team Ministry

Recruitment of Ex-offenders Statement

Date of first policy:

Date to be reviewed:

Page 1 of the [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#) states that the incumbent and PCC will have a policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders.

Section 2.3 of the Church of England's [Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment](#) also states that:

"Applicants for paid and volunteer positions must be clear about how they will be treated if they are ex-offenders. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has published a [sample policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders](#)."

This policy uses the sample policy statement wording as recommended by DBS and the Diocese of Norwich Safeguarding Team on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. (May 2022)

- 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), The Dereham & District Team Ministry complies fully with the [code of practice](#) and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that The Dereham & District Team Ministry 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)
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry has a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is made available to all DBS applicants at the start of the recruitment process
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry actively promotes 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
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry 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

- The Dereham & District Team Ministry ensures that all those in The Dereham & District Team Ministry who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry 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, The Dereham & District Team Ministry 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
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry 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
- The Dereham & District Team Ministry undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

[Sample policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)