

APPENDIX 7 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

Version 1



1. This organisation is committed to providing a vital, practical response to the needs of those we serve, regardless of race, religion, lifestyle, sex, sexuality, physical/mental disability, offending background or any other factor.
2. As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure Service/Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, the church (organisation) undertakes to comply fully with the DBS/SCRO Code of Practice and to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.
3. We 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. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications, experience and commitment to the values of the organisation.
4. A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered a position.
5. Where a Disclosure is to form part of a recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of any criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover to the recruiter within the organisation and we guarantee that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of a recruitment process.
6. Unless the nature of the position allows us to ask questions about your entire criminal record, we only ask about "unspent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
7. We ensure that all those in the organisation who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance of circumstances of offences. We will also ensure 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.
8. At interview, or in separate discussion, we 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 or voluntary work.
9. We make every subject of a DBS/SCRO Disclosure aware of the existence of the Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.
10. We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a disclosure with the person seeking a position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with us. This will depend upon the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.