

Ealing Council Policy on the Recruitment of Ex Offenders

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar an applicant from working with us. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of the offences

- 1.1 As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Ealing Council complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.
- 1.2 Ealing Council is committed to the fair treatment of its employees, potential employees or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/ mental disability or offending background. 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 and experience.
- 1.3 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 the position.
- 1.4 Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is included on the application form, and will be viewed by a designated person within the Council and we guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
- 1.5 Unless the nature of the position allows the Council to ask questions about your entire criminal record we will only ask about "unspent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- 1.6 We ensure that all those in Ealing Council 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, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- 1.7 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 might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment or, if discovered at some later date liable to disciplinary action which could result in dismissal.
- 1.8 We make every subject of a DBS Disclosure aware of the existence of the formal Home Office guidance, available at:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/agencies-public-bodies/dbs/dbs-checking-service-guidance/cop>
- 1.9 We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment. Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar an applicant from working with us. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of the offences.