

# **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill**

## **Fact Sheet: Fees for criminal record certificates etc (clause 134)**

### **Background**

1. The Disclosure and Barring Service (“DBS”) was established in 2012 to carry out the functions previously undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority. It provides various products and services related to the disclosure of criminal record information. These include issuing criminal record certificates to people working in sensitive positions of trust – for example, working with children – as well as a new update service. The update service enables on-line checks to be made for individuals who have received a criminal record certificate and signed up to the new service, to check whether the information contained in their certificate remains up to date. The fee for a certificate is currently either £26 or £44, depending on the type of check required; the annual subscription fee for the update service is £13.
2. The Home Secretary sets the fees that are charged for these services, with reference to the cost of DBS carrying out its functions.
3. It is Government policy that criminal records checks, including the new update service, should be provided free of charge to volunteers. This is important to reduce the barriers to volunteering, while continuing to protect the vulnerable people with whom volunteers work.

### **Fees for criminal record certificates**

4. Clause 134 of the Bill ensures that volunteers can continue to receive criminal records checks free of charge. It allows the Home Secretary to take account of the costs of these checks when setting fees for DBS services, so that fees recover the overall costs of the service. This means that costs are not charged to the general taxpayer.
5. Arrangements are in place, relying on powers in section 102 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1987, to ensure that current fees can lawfully reflect the costs of checks for volunteers until such time as the provision in the Bill comes into force. This change to the law places these measures on a more transparent legislative basis.

Home Office  
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