

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Could you please provide me with the following information:

1) The number of applicants for inclusion on the Register of approved driving instructors in each of the last three years (2008, 2009 and 2010) who had criminal records, and how many were approved for inclusion?

2) For each approved applicant, details of the offences on their criminal records and the area in which they were applying to work as a Driving Instructor.

We do not hold information on the number of criminal record disclosures that were clear of content or those that had information on them. The Criminal Record Bureau's (CRB) Code of Practice (section 3), which applies to bodies using disclosures, states that: *No reproductions of the Disclosure or its content are made, including photocopies or scanned images, unless with the prior agreement of the CRB or as a result of a stipulated requirement relating to the e-channel service.* Disclosure Scotland also has a similar requirement. Any details we receive are securely disposed of and details are not kept.

Therefore, we do not hold details of the number of applicants for inclusion on the ADI register who had criminal records and were approved. We also do not hold details of their criminal record or the area in which they applied to work in.

The Registrar has strict procedures in place to assess the suitability of people applying to join the Register of ADIs or to renew or re-register for membership.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is used to obtain enhanced criminal record disclosures.

Applications are unlikely to be successful from applicants who have been convicted of serious, violent, sexual, financial or drug offences. The Registrar is unlikely to accept applicants who are on the Sex Offenders' Register, or banned from working with children.

People with a criminal record may still be able to become an ADI. The Registrar will assess the risk they pose to pupils, including factors such as:

- whether the conviction is relevant
- seriousness of the offence
- the length of time since the offence occurred
- whether there is a pattern of offending behaviour
- the circumstances surrounding the offence and any explanation or defence

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