



DBS safeguarding referral tables for calendar years 2012 and 2013

The tables below show the number of discretionary barring referrals made to the DBS by sector in 2012 and 2013. They relate to the number of referrals *made* by that sector and do not relate to individual cases within that sector – eg: in most cases the police will have *made* the referral of an individual, as part of their casework and safeguarding duties, not because it is a member of their staff who is being referred.

Legislation¹ provides for ‘discretionary’ referrals to be made to DBS, generally in circumstances where a person has been removed from working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults because they have harmed or posed a risk of harm to a child or adult.

We are developing a more comprehensive dataset of barring information for publication as part of our commitment to greater transparency. We will progressively publish more data as it becomes available and we are looking to develop and publish more extensive referral and barring information in 2015.

Table 1: Discretionary referrals by referring sector calendar year 2012 and 2013

Referring sector ³	Calendar year 2012	Calendar year 2013
Education LEA	372	366
Education Independent	142	122
Care Homes / Domiciliary Care	2410	2512
NHS	214	238
Health (other) and Social Care	978	807
Local Authority ⁴	829	746
Faith	36	40
Sport / Recreational	83	126
Personnel Supplier ⁵	39	0
Voluntary	143	160
Prison / Probation ⁶	16	7
Police ⁷	189	108

Professional Regulator ⁸	568	545
Other	280	425
Total	6299	6202

Notes

1. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 place either a duty or a power for regulated activity providers, personnel suppliers, local authorities and professional regulators, Health and Social Care Trusts (NI) and Education and Library Boards (NI) to make safeguarding referrals to DBS if the referral criteria are met.
2. Apart from discretionary referrals, referrals for DBS barring consideration are also provided in relation to people convicted for certain serious offences prescribed in legislation and for people with a serious criminal record applying for a disclosure to work with children or vulnerable adults. Referrals for offences or for disclosures are not included in Table 1 (above).
3. The referring sectors listed in the table reflect the organisational sector that made the referral but not necessarily the sector of the workforce the referred person was working in. For many sectors in the table such as Education, Health, NHS and Social Care this will be the same. However, this will not be the case for Referring Sectors such as Prison / Probation, Police, Personnel Supplier, Professional Regulator or Local Authority. Police referrals usually relate to cases that come to police notice while undertaking their professional duties and not to referrals from the Police as an employer.
4. Local Authority referrals include both referrals from the local authority as an employer, as well as referrals of external people by the local authority child protection and adult safeguarding teams.
5. 'Personnel Supplier' ceased to be used as a category in 2013 as it is not a workforce sector but a type of referrer. These referrals are now included in the individual sector they were referred from.
6. Prison / Probation referrals may include both referrals relating to officers working within the sector as well as referrals in relation to prisoners or people on probation.
7. Professional body referrals include referrals from professional regulators e.g. General Medical Council and inspecting bodies e.g. Care Quality Commission, arising either from 'fitness to practise' cases or through undertaking their professional duties. The referrals are not usually in relation to the professional body as an employer.