



PS 134 Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme Policy

April 2011

Version 1.0

Statement of legislative compliance

This document has been drafted to comply with the general and specific duties in the Equality Act 2010; Data Protection Act; Freedom of Information Act; European Convention of Human Rights; Employment Act 2002; Employment Relations Act 1999, and other legislation relevant to policing.

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Aims and objectives of the policy

In 2007, the Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders, recommended that a police led Disclosure Scheme should be introduced in four areas, to pilot a new approach in dealing with the disclosure of information relating to child sexual offences.

A subsequent independent evaluation found that the scheme had been a success and a decision was made to roll out the scheme nationally. Nottinghamshire is included in the final phase and in accordance with national guidance will go live on 1st April 2011.

The general aims and objectives of this policy are as follows:

- To reduce sexual offending against children;
- To provide parents, carers and guardians with information that will enable them to better safeguard their children; and
- To improve public confidence.

Policy statement

The key changes are that any person can make an application about anybody that has contact with a child and there is no requirement to demonstrate existing concern to justify an application.

A Child Sex Offender Disclosure Procedure will provide guidance to practitioners to ensure that any disclosures are dealt with in accordance with national guidance and are:

- Proportionate;
- Lawful;
- Accountable; and
- Necessary

Disclosure will only be made after multi-agency consideration and then only to persons in a position to use that information to protect a child. Accordingly, anonymous applications will not be deemed to meet this requirement and such applications will be rejected. An applicant may express a wish to not have their contact details disclosed at the time of the application. Whilst we cannot guarantee anonymity, such a request for anonymity may be considered.

The processing of all applications will be carefully controlled. Any disclosures made will only be made by authorized persons in accordance with our procedures and where deemed appropriate.

The amount of information disclosed will be restricted to the **minimum** required for the protection of the child. Specific details of offences will not be disclosed unless exceptional circumstances apply and only where such disclosure is necessary, relevant and proportionate to the protection of a child.