

GENERAL INFORMATION

Declaration of Criminal Offences

If you have a record of offence(s), this will not necessarily disqualify you as all applications are considered strictly on their merits. However, you are required to declare any offence for which the conviction is not yet 'spent' within the meaning of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Incorporating the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act [Exceptions] 1975 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 [Exceptions] [Amendment] Order 1986). You are advised to declare any charge that is pending; a subsequent conviction could lead to your dismissal from the Service.

Broadly, the Act provides for anyone who has ever been convicted of a criminal offence and not sentenced to more than 2.5 years in prison to become a 'Rehabilitated Person' at the end of the Rehabilitation period, provided there have been no further convictions. At the end of this period, the conviction is considered 'spent' and thus to be treated as if it never happened.

There is no requirement to disclose 'spent' convictions.

These sentences have fixed rehabilitation periods:

Sentence	Rehabilitation Period	
	People aged under 18 when convicted	People aged 18 or over when convicted
Prison sentences* of 6 months or less	3 ½ years	7 years
Prison sentences* of more than 6 months to 2 ½ years	5 years	10 years
Borstal (abolished in 1983)	7 years	7 years
Detention Centres (abolished in 1988)	3 years	3 years
Fines, compensation, community service, combination and curfew orders	2 ½ years	5 years
Absolute discharge	6 months	6 months

** Including suspended sentences, youth custody (abolished 1988) and detention in a young offender institution.*

Further guidance on the Act can be found in the Home Office Booklet "A Guide to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974" issued by HM Stationery Office. If you are in any doubt about your declaration, you can get legal advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau, local Law Centre etc.

Note: Should the candidate knowingly provide any particulars given in the answers within the application form that are found to be false within the knowledge of the candidate or should there be any willful omission or suppression of any material fact, the candidate will, if appointed, be liable to dismissal from the Fire & Rescue Service.