

DBS and the Update Service – what is that???

It is quite possible that you may not have heard of the Update Service – and you wouldn't be alone!

But I suspect you *might* have heard me wittering on about portability of DBS checks (*Disclosure Barring Service, formerly known as CRB*).

Portability is something that many people in all types of work and voluntary work have been hoping for, for a number of years. It can save you from having to repeatedly apply for a new DBS every time you take on a new role.

The Government has considered whether it is acceptable to use a DBS certificate issued for one purpose, to be used for another.

Diocesan policy is that anyone who wishes to take on a role in the Diocese, **must** have a DBS certificate, applied for through the Diocese, via their agents CCPAS. It is only possible to use previously issued DBS or CRB certificates if it was applied for after 17th June 2013 **AND** the person concerned has joined the **Update Service**.

To join the Update Service you will need to apply within 15 days of the date of issue of your DBS certificate.

I would recommend that all who apply for a new DBS certificate, for whatever purpose, should join the Update Service. It is free for volunteers. I will happily advise if requested.

If you do not have a DBS certificate and are in a position of responsibility in your tower, you may need one. Apply now, through your Parish Safeguarding Officer, and register straight away with the Update service. It will make life a lot easier in the future. If you aren't sure whether you need one, give me a call. It won't take long!

Update service benefits:

- Instant online checks of DBS Certificates. This advises as to whether there have been any offences committed after the issue of the DBS certificate.
- No more DBS application forms to fill in.
- Cheaper for the applying organisation – i.e. the new organisation for whom a volunteer works cannot apply directly to see your DBS certificate. You have to show them that it is up-to-date. So no-one needs to know your criminal record if you don't want them to see it.

Sue Elrick

Safeguarding Officer Feb 2014