

10th January 2022

Covid 19 Pandemic – Update on Re-Vetting

Recent Parish enquiries indicate that more volunteers are now recommencing their role after a considerable break caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The situation reflected by Parishes is that those returning have been away from their role for periods exceeding one year, and sometimes nearer two years.

Accordingly, I have taken the opportunity to review the situation around vetting.

With regards to any volunteer who was 'stood down' during the covid period, i.e., not removed from their role, but not used, I believe we should follow the 'reasonableness principle'. The 'reasonableness principle' is understood to be what a court would consider if a person who had been disqualified was allowed to resume their role. A common view is that a court would consider a vetting certificate used in pre-employment checking, which was under three months old as reasonable, but using a certificate which was over one year old would be seen as unreasonable.

While I am mindful of the need to be as helpful as possible in these difficult times, I must at the same time adhere to the regulations. **In these circumstances therefore, I consider re-vetting to be appropriate after a period of one year's absence from the role caused by the Covid 19 pandemic only.**

I apologise if this process causes any difficulty, however I am sure you agree that safeguarding is a priority.



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