22 April 2013

The NRPSI and Security Vetting

Since starting we have promoted to our registrants that being on the National Register will provide a guarantee to your clients that you are qualified, competent and security vetted. Because of this we have required that security clearance documents be provided when registering.

Unfortunately this has now changed as we have been told by the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly the Criminal Records Bureau) that as NRPSI is not an employer of our registrants we cannot ask for a clearance and also that individuals cannot ask for a DBS check on themselves. Despite engaging directly with the DBS and arguing the case with them, pointing out that the National Register is not only providing a valuable public service in requiring this basic level of verification but it is also what many employers are looking for, they are firm in their view that the regulations do not allow us to ask for this. Therefore in order to comply with the DBS requirements we are no longer able to require a valid security document for registration with the NRPSI.

However we recognise that for many organisations seeking to engage the services of an interpreter through accessing the register a security clearance will be an advantage, indeed for some it will be a basic requirement. Therefore if a registrant has such clearance at any level and can demonstrate this to us then we will carry that information in the details of that registrant on our database and will be redefining the search criteria to enable such information to be pulled out by an enquiring employer.

We also note that the DBS regulations only apply in England and Wales and that individuals from anywhere in the UK can still make direct application to Disclosure Scotland for a Basic level check (at a cost we understand of £25) and that this is valid throughout the UK, not just in Scotland.

Ted Sangster
Chairman
On behalf of the Board

Ends

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