



Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

2012 CHAPTER 9

PART 5

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE GROUPS, CRIMINAL RECORDS ETC.

CHAPTER 2

CRIMINAL RECORDS

Safeguards in relation to certificates

79 Restriction on information provided to certain persons

- (1) Omit section 93 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 (which, if commenced, would insert section 112(2A) into the Police Act 1997 requiring copies of certain criminal conviction certificates to be given to employers etc.).
- (2) Omit—
 - (a) section 113A(4) of the Police Act 1997 (requirement to send copy of criminal record certificate to registered person), and
 - (b) section 113B(5) and (6) of that Act (requirement to give relevant information, and copy of enhanced criminal record certificate to registered person).
- (3) After section 120AB of the Police Act 1997 (procedure for certain cancellations or suspensions of registration) insert—

“120AC Registered persons: information on progress of an application

- (1) The Secretary of State must, in response to a request from a person who is acting as the registered person in relation to an application under section 113A or 113B, inform that person whether or not a certificate has been issued in response to the application.

Changes to legislation: *Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Section 79 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (2) Subsections (3) and (4) apply if, at the time a request is made under subsection (1), a certificate has been issued.
- (3) In the case of a certificate under section 113A, if it was a certificate stating that there is no relevant matter recorded in central records, the Secretary of State may inform the person who made the request that the certificate was such a certificate.
- (4) In the case of a certificate under section 113B, if it was a certificate—
 - (a) stating that there is no relevant matter recorded in central records and no information provided in accordance with subsection (4) of that section, and
 - (b) if section 113BA(1) or 113BB(1) applies to the certificate, containing no suitability information indicating that the person to whom the certificate is issued—
 - (i) is barred from regulated activity relating to children or to vulnerable adults, or
 - (ii) is subject to a direction under 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 or section 167A of the Education Act 2002,
 the Secretary of State may inform the person who made the request that the certificate was such a certificate.
- (5) If no certificate has been issued, the Secretary of State must inform the person who made the request of such other matters relating to the processing of the application as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (6) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), nothing in this section permits the Secretary of State to inform a person who is acting as the registered person in relation to an application under section 113A or 113B of the content of any certificate issued in response to the application.
- (7) The Secretary of State may refuse a request under subsection (1) if it is made after the end of a prescribed period beginning with the day on which the certificate was issued.
- (8) In this section—

“central records” and “relevant matter” have the same meaning as in section 113A,

“suitability information” means information required to be included in a certificate under section 113B by virtue of section 113BA or 113BB.
- (9) Expressions in subsection (4)(b) and in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 have the same meaning in that paragraph as in that Act.

120AD Registered persons: copies of certificates in certain circumstances

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
 - (a) the Secretary of State gives up-date information in relation to a criminal record certificate or enhanced criminal record certificate,
 - (b) the up-date information is advice to apply for a new certificate or (as the case may be) request another person to apply for such a certificate, and

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- (c) the person whose certificate it is in respect of which the up-date information is given applies for a new criminal record certificate or (as the case may be) enhanced criminal record certificate.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, in response to a request made within the prescribed period by the person who is acting as the registered person in relation to the application, send to that person a copy of any certificate issued in response to the application if the registered person—
- (a) has counter-signed the application or transmitted it to the Secretary of State under section 113A(2A) or 113B(2A),
 - (b) has informed the Secretary of State that the applicant for the new certificate has not, within such period as may be prescribed, sent a copy of it to a person of such description as may be prescribed, and
 - (c) no prescribed circumstances apply.
- (3) The power under subsection (2)(b) to prescribe a description of person may be exercised to describe the registered person or any other person.
- (4) In this section “up-date information” has the same meaning as in section 116A.”

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 79 extended (Guernsey) (with modifications) (coming into force in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) of the amending S.I.) by [The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal Records\) \(Guernsey\) \(Amendment\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1762\)](#), art. 4(1)(2), **Sch. 1**
- C2** S. 79 extended (Jersey) (with modifications) (17.10.2012 coming into force in accordance with art. 1(2)(3) by [The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal Records\) \(Jersey\) \(Amendment\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2591\)](#), art. 1(2)(3)4(1)(2)(a), **Sch. 1** (with art. 5)
- C3** S. 79 extended (Isle of Man) (with modifications) (with effect in accordance with art. 1(3)(4) of the amending S.I.) by [The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal Records\) \(Isle of Man\) \(Amendment\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2598\)](#), arts. 1(2), 4(1)(a), **Sch. 1**

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 79(1) in force at 10.9.2012 immediately after the coming into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2157) by [S.I. 2012/2234](#), **art. 2(p)**
- I2** S. 79(2)(a) in force at 17.6.2013 by [S.I. 2013/1180](#), **art. 2(a)**
- I3** S. 79(2)(b) in force at 10.9.2012 immediately after the coming into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2157) for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2234](#), **art. 2(q)**
- I4** S. 79(2)(b)(3) in force at 17.6.2013 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2013/1180](#), **art. 2(a)**
- I5** S. 79(3) in force at 10.9.2012 immediately after the coming into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2157) for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2234](#), **art. 2(r)**

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/2234 art. 13 by [S.I. 2014/831 art. 2\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) transitional provisions and savings for commencing S.I. 2013/1814 by [S.I. 2013/1813 art. 2-9](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 para. 7A inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 20](#)