

## Access NI Applicant Guide - Leaders

### How does the process work?

Download and print out the latest PCI Application Form for Leaders (AFL).  
It is found on the PCI website at [www.presbyterianireland.org/takingcare](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/takingcare)



The applicant completes page 1 and partly page 2.



As per instructions on page 3 - the applicant should visit the NI Direct website and complete an online Access NI form. They will be asked for the registered body's PIN code which is printed on the PCI Application form for Leaders.



Once they have completed the online form they will be given a Case Reference number which they must write, along with the date, on their Application Form for Leaders.



Applicants must then take the Application Form for Leaders and their **original** identity documents (I.D.), along with copies if possible, to their DP or Minister. The DP/Minister will check the I.D. and take copies, if not already provided, and complete the remaining incomplete parts of the form (pages 2, 3 and 4).



The PCI Application Form for Leaders *plus* the copies of I.D. should be posted to the Taking Care Office.

***The applicant's online form will not be forwarded for processing to Access NI until the Application Form for Leaders, along with I.D. copies, has been received in the post, completed fully, and, within 11 weeks of the date their AccessNI online form was submitted.***

**What does the question, ‘Do you have any convictions that are not ‘protected’ (as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979, as amended in 2014) mean?’**

- Organisations can no longer legally ask applicants to declare all convictions, even in cases where an Enhanced Disclosure (with or without Barred List check) will be carried out.
- Organisations may now only ask applicants to declare any convictions that are not subject to filtering.
- From 14 April 2014 old and minor offences (known as “protected” offences) are removed or ‘filtered’ from Standard and Enhanced Disclosure checks.
- Some types of offences known as “specified offences” will always be disclosed including those which are serious, relate to sexual or violent offending or are relevant in the context of safeguarding.

**What if my certificate shows I have committed any offence(s)?**

It is up to you to produce it to the Head of Safeguarding, in the Taking Care Office, so that a decision can be made on whether the job applied for is or is not exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Order 1978. You cannot start in your role until this happens.

**Who has access to my application form and ID copies?**

The Taking Care Office holds and adheres to a policy (found on PCI website) on the Secure Handling, Use, Storage and Retention of Disclosure Information which means access is strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

**What if an applicant has no access to the Internet?**

- All public libraries now have Internet access available free of charge and there are often clubs and groups set up to help people to use the Internet.
- Designated Persons/Ministers may want to consider bringing a laptop to church premises to help facilitate the form filling although remember you will need Internet connection and the applicant will also need an email address.
- Members who are more familiar with online forms could be encouraged to help those who are not as computer literate to complete a form.

**Is there a cost implication?**

There is no change to the cost of this process. Volunteers remain free of charge and the cost for paid posts is £33.