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ACRO (SAR)
PO Box 623
Fareham
Hampshire
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United Kingdom

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Request for Confirmation of Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 Information and one other issue.

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to kindly request your assistance in confirming the accuracy of certain information related to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (ROA) in the United Kingdom.

After conducting thorough research, I have come across various details concerning the rehabilitation periods and the process for the removal of spent convictions, as well as exceptions to rehabilitation outlined in the ROA. As responsible citizens, it is crucial for us to remain informed of these matters to ensure fair treatment and adherence to the law.

Based on my understanding, the ROA stipulates that the rehabilitation periods are determined by the sentence received or disposal administered as a result of a conviction, as well as the individual's age on the date of conviction. I have also noted that recent government legislation, effective as of 28th October 2023, introduced updates to the rehabilitation periods. For instance, custodial sentences exceeding four years (excluding schedule 18 offenses) become spent after a period of seven years from the completion of the sentence, including any associated license period.

However, it is also my understanding that certain convictions are excluded from rehabilitation and will always be disclosed to specific parties. These include sentences of imprisonment for life, sentences of imprisonment, youth custody, detention in a young offender institution or corrective training exceeding four years for a schedule 18 offense, sentences of preventive detention, sentences of detention at His Majesty's pleasure, sentences of custody for life, and public protection sentences.

To ensure that I have the most accurate and up-to-date information, I kindly request your confirmation regarding the following points:

1. The accuracy of the information outlined above concerning the rehabilitation periods under the ROA, taking into account the recent legislative changes.
2. The process for applying to ACRO or the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for the removal of spent convictions, including relevant application details, fees, and supporting documentation requirements.

3. Clarification regarding the exceptions to the removal of spent convictions, particularly in relation to professions and roles that may require individuals to disclose such convictions.
4. The importance of removing spent convictions from an ACRO report and its impact on individuals seeking employment, housing, or visas, with respect to the principles of rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
5. Information regarding provisions in the law for the sealing or becoming spent of records related to offenses committed by individuals under the age of 18 based on the severity of the offense.
6. The treatment of cases marked as "NFA" (No Further Action) or "Not Guilty" in regards to their removal from the ACRO report.
7. The removal of associated convictions from the ACRO report in cases where an individual has received a pardon or a royal prerogative of mercy.
8. Eligibility criteria for the removal of cases that, if retained, would infringe upon an individual's human rights or potentially lead to unjust discrimination.
9. Any additional guidance or relevant provisions under the UK's Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), allowing for the erasure of personal data, including the removal of old or irrelevant criminal records.
10. Any future plans or potential legislation concerning the expungement or removal of specific types of convictions.
11. Specific criteria regarding the removal of certain convictions from an individual's PVG Scheme record within Scotland.
12. Also, can you explain if you feel any data is wrong that you hold on me what is the process to deal with this as there are errors on my record.

If possible, I kindly request your response within 1 month to ensure I have accurate and reliable information for personal and professional purposes. I greatly appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Should you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using the provided contact details.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance. I eagerly await your response.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Simon Cordell 20/02/2024