

Verifile Newsletter

July 2019 / Issue #36

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Welcome to our July 2019 edition of our newsletter which contains important news and updates from us.



Scottish PVG Scheme Set to Change

After running an extensive **public consultation** process last year, a new **Disclosure (Scotland) Bill** is proposing radical changes to the law relating to the disclosure of criminal history in Scotland and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

Among the proposed changes, we note the following:

- The PVG scheme will become mandatory for anyone working with children and vulnerable people.
- The existing lifetime membership in the PVG Scheme will be replaced with a renewable five-year membership.
- Automatic disclosure of minor criminal offences committed by young persons will end, and decisions whether or not to disclose such offences will be taken on a case by case basis.
- The whole disclosure system will be simplified, reducing the number of different checks available from ten to four.
- There are also different proposals to change the fees for Scottish checks which have not yet been finalised.



This week our CEO, Eyal, along with other lead signatories of Registered Bodies and Regulators will discuss the impact of these changes at the “future of legislation underpinning the Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information” **conference in Edinburgh**.

Please check our social media for updates on the event. We will, of course, keep you fully informed as further legislation changes unfold.

Cifas: 150% Rise in False References

The latest **Fraudscape** report from Cifas shows that employment application fraud is still high. This follows the BDO's **FraudTrack 2018** report, which stated employee fraud cost organisations almost £500 million in 2017. Employee fraud not only has a significant impact on an organisation's finances but can also damage reputation and staff morale.

According to Cifas, hiding unspent criminal convictions remained the most common form of fraudulent conduct when the employment application was successful. False references saw an increase of 150% in 2018 compared to 2017, the highest number in five years. That's why Verifile go directly to employers, universities, schools, and others when undertaking pre-employment checks, instead of relying on referees that the candidate supplies.

Degree fraud is also highlighted as a problem and includes:

- the creation of fake degree certificates (counterfeit versions of degree certificates from real universities)
- the operation of diploma mills (which sell unrecognised degrees for a fee, usually based on "life experience")
- exaggeration or outright lies on CVs



With the use of design software and colour printers, fraudsters now have access to the tools they need to create realistic versions of certificates. Even professionals in university registry offices can sometimes find it difficult to distinguish a fake certificate from a genuine one, so verifying degrees directly with the university is essential. Cifas advises that *"Only when all employers check the authenticity of all their hires all the time will degree fraud be eradicated."*

For more information on how we can help you reduce your risk via a tailored pre-employment screening policy, please contact us.

Verifile Now A G-Cloud 11 Public Sector Supplier:

Crown
Commercial
Service
Supplier

We're delighted to announce that Verifile has successfully been awarded a place on the **G-Cloud 11 framework** and is now an **approved Crown Commercial Service supplier** for cloud services. Already a supplier of choice for many Government departments and public sector organisations, this award emphasises our commitment to delivering cloud-based services to public sector organisations in the UK.

[Read more](#)



International Product Changes

- **Falkland Islands Police Clearance Certificate:** Now available in the Falkland Islands is a Police Clearance Certificate.
- **Russia Extended Credit Check:** We now offer an additional type of credit report from Russia. The new Russia Extended Credit Check provides a detailed financial history of a candidate's Russian financial accounts such as bank accounts, credit cards, mortgage, personal loans etc. and confirms the current amount of debt, monthly payments and payment defaults. The original Russia Credit Check, which we have provided for some time, has now been re-named as a Russia Negative Tax Records Check to reflect the scope of this check better.
- **Australia Search:** Our search establishes whether the candidate has been banned or disqualified by either the Australian Securities & Investments Commission or the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. The search will also identify if either of these regulators have accepted an enforceable undertaking against the candidate in relation to matters they oversee.

VeriFest 2019

On Saturday the 29th June Verifile held its annual summer party 'VeriFest'. The hottest day of the year coincided with our employee annual summer party where sun cream managed to keep the burns to a minimum and fun was had by all!

As well as a live band and games, we also held a raffle which raised over £700 for our charity of the year **Cancer Research UK**.



Registered name:
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Registered office:
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Place of registration:
England and Wales

Registered number: 05129976