



Sheryll Murray MP

Cllr Nick Craker
Liskeard Town Council
3-5 West Street
Liskeard
PL14 6BW

16 August 2023

Our Ref: ZA73785

Nick

Re: DBS Checks

Further to your contact with my office, please find enclosed a letter I have received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in respect of the above.

I appreciate you taking the time to contact me on this matter and should I be of any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Kind regards

Sheryll

Sheryll Murray MP
Your local Member of Parliament

Enc:



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Sheryll Murray MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Lee Rowley MP
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Your reference: ZA73785
Our reference: 26765864

July 2023

Dear Sheryll,

Thank you for your email of 21 April on behalf of, Councillor Nick Craker of Liskeard Town Council, regarding criminal record checks for Town and Parish Councillors. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am grateful for you getting in touch to share Cllr Craker's practical insights for Town and Parish Councils that are considering using formal criminal record checks carried out by the Disclosure and Barring Service ('DBS checks') on their councillors. At present, there is no legal requirement on councillors to undergo a DBS check, either to stand for office or after they are elected. The law specifies that a Council is entitled but not required to undertake checks for Councillors who discharge Education and Social Service functions.

As you may be aware, the government commissioned an independent review of the effectiveness of the disclosure and barring regime in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Independent Review of the Disclosure and Barring Regime was published on 18 April. Chapter 4 deals with councillors and Recommendation 5 is for Government to introduce mandatory checks in some cases while encouraging councils to adopt the recommendation as best practice until legislation can be passed. Government is currently considering this report and its recommendations.

Thank you for sharing Cllr Craker's concerns.

Yours ever,

LEE ROWLEY MP