Privacy Notice

Data controller: Harborough District Council

Data protection officer: Stuart Done, 01858 828282

As part of any recruitment process, the organisation collects and processes personal data relating to job applicants. The organisation is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses that data and to meeting its data protection obligations.

What information does the organisation collect?

The organisation collects a range of information about you. This includes:

- your name, address and contact details, including email address and telephone number
- details of your qualifications, skills, experience and employment history
- information about your current level of remuneration, including benefit entitlements
- whether or not you have a disability for which the organisation needs to make reasonable adjustments during the recruitment process
- information about your entitlement to work in the UK
- equal opportunities monitoring information, including information about your ethnic origin, sexual orientation, health, and religion or belief

The organisation collects this information in a variety of ways. For example, data might be contained in application forms, CVs, obtained from your passport or other identity documents, or collected through interviews or other forms of assessment.

The organisation will also collect personal data about you from third parties, such as references supplied by former employers, information from employment background check providers and information from criminal records checks. The organisation will seek information from third parties only once a job offer to you has been made and will inform you that it is doing so.

Data will be stored in a range of different places, including on your application record, in HR management systems and on other IT systems (including email).

Why does the organisation process personal data?

The organisation needs to process data to take steps at your request prior to entering into a contract with you. It also needs to process your data to enter into a contract with you.

In some cases, the organisation needs to process data to ensure that it is complying with its legal obligations. For example, it is required to check a successful applicant's eligibility to work in the UK before employment starts.

The organisation has a legitimate interest in processing personal data during the recruitment process and for keeping records of the process. Processing data from job applicants allows the organisation to manage the recruitment process, assess and confirm a candidate's suitability for employment and decide to whom to offer a job. The organisation may also need to process data from job applicants to respond to and defend against legal claims.

The organisation processes health information if it needs to make reasonable adjustments to the recruitment process for candidates who have a disability. This is to carry out its obligations and exercise specific rights in relation to employment.

Where the organisation processes other special categories of data, such as information about ethnic origin, sexual orientation, health or religion or belief, this is for equal opportunities monitoring purposes. Further information regarding this is detailed in the policy statement at the end of this document.

For some roles, the organisation is obliged to seek information about criminal convictions and offences. Where the organisation seeks this information, it does so because it is necessary for it to carry out its obligations and exercise specific rights in relation to employment.

The organisation will not use your data for any purpose other than the recruitment exercise for which you have applied.

Who has access to data?

Your information will be shared internally for the purposes of the recruitment exercise. This includes members of the HR and recruitment team, interviewers involved in the recruitment process, managers in the business area with a vacancy and IT staff if access to the data is necessary for the performance of their roles.

The organisation will not share your data with third parties, unless your application for employment is successful and it makes you an offer of employment. The organisation will then share your data with former employers to obtain references for you, employment background check providers to obtain necessary background checks and the Disclosure and Barring Service to obtain necessary criminal records checks.

The organisation will not transfer your data outside the European Economic Area.

How does the organisation protect data?

The organisation takes the security of your data seriously. It has internal policies and controls in place to ensure that your data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or disclosed, and is not accessed except by our employees in the proper performance of their duties.

For how long does the organisation keep data?

If your application for employment is unsuccessful, the organisation will hold your data on file for 6 months after the end of the relevant recruitment process. At the end of that period (or once you withdraw your consent), your data is deleted or destroyed.

If your application for employment is successful, personal data gathered during the recruitment process will be transferred to your personnel file and retained during your employment.

Your rights

As a data subject, you have a number of rights. You can:

- access and obtain a copy of your data on request
- require the organisation to change incorrect or incomplete data
- require the organisation to delete or stop processing your data, for example where the data is no longer necessary for the purposes of processing
- object to the processing of your data where the organisation is relying on its legitimate interests as the legal ground for processing
- ask the organisation to stop processing data for a period if data is inaccurate or there is a dispute about whether or not your interests override the organisation's legitimate grounds for processing data.

If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please contact foi@harborough.gov.uk . You can make a subject access request by completing the organisation's form for making a subject access request.

If you believe that the organisation has not complied with your data protection rights, you can complain to the Information Commissioner.

What if you do not provide personal data?

You are under no statutory or contractual obligation to provide data to the organisation during the recruitment process. However, if you do not provide the information, the organisation may not be able to process your application properly or at all.

You are under no obligation to provide information for equal opportunities monitoring purposes and there are no consequences for your application if you choose not to provide such information.

Equality Monitoring Policy Statement

As a modern organisation, providing high quality services, Harborough District Council recognises the diversity of its customers and workforce. An Equality Plan acknowledges the fact of social change, the development and impact of social legislation and the need to provide equality within policy development, service provision, and employment.

The policy is underpinned by the national legislative framework and a Corporate Equality Scheme, together with internal procedures and management guidance which will support the policy and be regularly reviewed.

The aim of the policy is to encourage good practice on equality throughout the Authority and to emphasize its importance as an essential element of all aspects of the business it conducts within the community.

Harborough District Council promotes equality in its policies, the services it provides and in employment. It is our aim to ensure that no customer, elected member, potential or current employee is treated less favourably on the grounds of gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability, age, political beliefs, religious beliefs or Trade Union membership/non-membership. We will seek to identify and eliminate those barriers that create disadvantage.

This aim will take time to achieve in its entirety. As a means of demonstrating commitment to the policy, Harborough District Council will implement the Equality Standard for local government, and any statutory Equality Schemes as required.

For this policy to be effective it must be certain that unfair or illegal discrimination is not taking place. The Council considers that to achieve this it must keep up-to-date information about job applicants. The information that you give WILL NOT be used by those involved in the selection procedure. It is for STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY and will be separated upon receipt and before consideration of candidates takes place and will be treated as confidential.