

Quick Start Guide – PVG Checks



Quick Start Guide for the Methodist Church

Welcome to your PVG application service provided by Due Diligence Checking Limited.

Due Diligence Checking Limited (DDC) are the provider for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checking service for the churches, Circuits and Districts that form the Methodist Church in Britain. In this Quick Start Guide for verifiers you will find some introductory information about the PVG process. Details of the DBS system are available from our website www.ddc.uk.net.

This guide is for you as a verifier or a Circuit level user, which we would encourage you to use. Applicants are guided through the process through guidance in the application pack which is issued to them, so you do not need to give them a copy of this guide. If you would like more detailed information you can find this on our "How To" pages in the client area of our website when you log in.

If you need any assistance as you start to use the system you are welcome to contact our support team on 0116 260 3055 or to contact us by email at contact@ddc.uk.net.

On behalf of the team at DDC, we look forward to working with you, and to supporting the churches Circuits and Districts that form the Methodist Church in Britain.

Jonathan Bazely DDC Director

Working in partnership with:





Contents

Quick Start Guide for the Methodist Church	2
Contents	3
Logging In	4
Adding an Applicant	4
The Application	8
What do the online application packs contain?	8
The Process – Online	9
Step 1 – Verify and copy the ID documents	9
Step 2 – Return the completed application pack	9
Step 3 – Applicant is emailed access to the online form	10
The Application	11
What do the paper application packs contain?	11
The Process - Paper	13
Step 1 – Applicant completes the application form	13
Step 2 – Verify and copy the ID documents	13
Step 3 – Return the completed application pack	13
Tracking Applications	14
Adding local Lay Verifiers	15
Frequently Asked Questions	17
Job Roles	20



Logging In

- 1. You will receive your log in details by email directly from DDC. If you do not receive your username and password or have misplaced it, please contact one of the team on 0116 260 3055 and we can provide further assistance.
- 2. Once you have received your login email, please go to the DDC website via the link contained in the email, or direct to www.ddc.uk.net/methodist and enter the details on the log-in page to access the Client Area.

Adding an Applicant

1. To initiate the process of a PVG check there are three options

Option 1: Request an online check

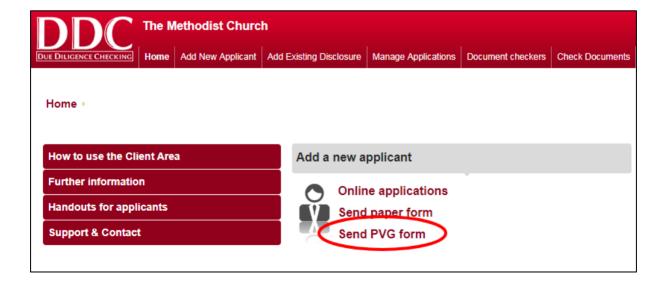
Option 2: Hand a pack directly to the applicant and ask them to complete all the information.

Option 3: Request a single pack is sent directly to the applicant.

Request an online check

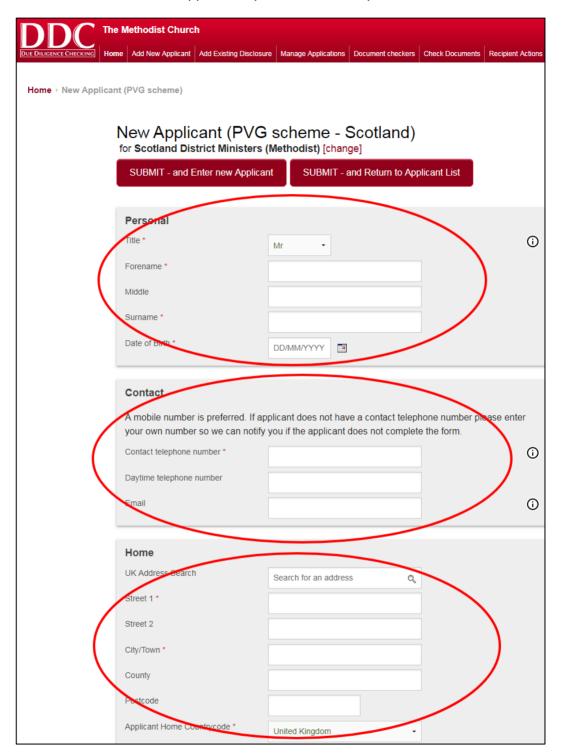
PVG applications are now being processed online through Disclosure Scotland's online portal. For PVG applications the steps to verify an applicant's identity must be undertaken prior to them being added to the system and an online form being completed

The default application process will be online and an application pack is not sent out unless a paper form is specifically requested.



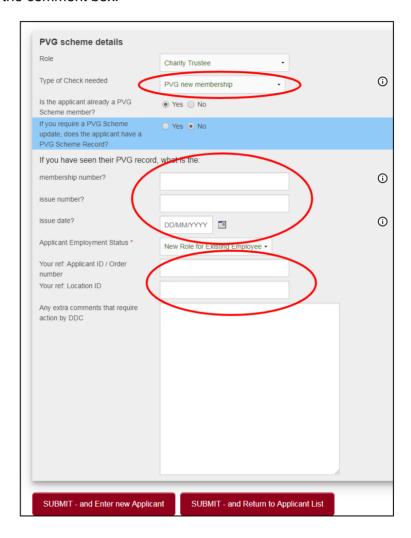


2. Fill in the applicant's basic contact details including the applicant's home address where we will send the application pack to and their personal email address.





- 3. Fill in the details as requested on screen, selecting the applicant's job role from the drop-down menu and answering the questions about the applicants existing involvement with the PVG scheme. The applicant should know these details if they have applied for a PVG membership in the past. Input any of your own references in the ID section.
 - a. A PVG update can only be requested if the applicant has their most recent PVG Scheme Record certificate. If they do not, a PVG Scheme record must be requested. If the applicant does not have a certificate please add a note in the comment box.





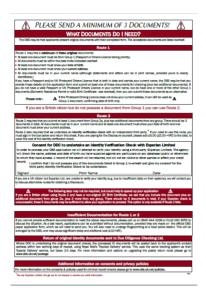
4. Click "**Submit**" to create the applicant on the system. DDC will send out the appropriate application pack within 24 hours.

Any extra comments that require action by DDC			
SUBMIT - and Enter new Applicant SUBMIT - and Return to Applicant List			



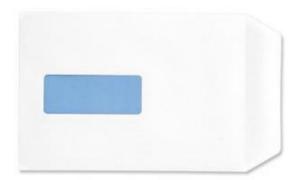
The Application

What do the online submission packs contain?



Guidance Notes

Two-sided guidance on which identity acceptable documents in support of an application.





Verifier ID Check Sheet

For the verifier to complete when the applicant provides their original identity documents. This will then be sent to DDC as confirmation that the process has been completed by an authorised verifier.

Addressed Envelope

A strong A5 envelope to return the completed application form, the Verifier ID Check Sheet and the photocopy of identity documents to DDC. Please note postage is required.



The Process - Online

Step 1 – Verify and copy the ID documents

For PVG applications the steps to verify an applicant's identity must be undertaken prior to them being added to the system and an online form being completed. This remains the same for both online and paper applications.



The applicant should bring you a minimum of 3 identity documents as listed on the guidance sent to you by DDC. As the Verifier, you should:

- Ensure the correct forms and combination of documents have been produced
- Check that the documents are authentic and original
- Photocopy all the identity documents making sure all personal data they contain is clear on the copy
- Complete the Verifier Identity Document Check Sheet which has been sent over by DDC and ensure it is signed.
- Return the original identity documents to the applicant.

Step 2 – Return the completed application pack



Return the completed application pack in the addressed envelope provided.

Please include:

- Photocopies of original identity documents (minimum of three)
- If the applicant requires a PVG Scheme Update application, please include a full copy of their most recent PVG Scheme Record certificate
 - Document checkers may alternatively email verified copies to DDC if they
 prefer. You may want to secure the email by password-protecting any
 documents. Ensure you provide DDC with the password for checking.
- Completed and signed Verifier Identity Document Check Sheet
- Continuation sheets if used

PLEASE NOTE: Remember to pay the postage for the return envelope.



Step 3 – Applicant is emailed access to the online form

Once DDC have received the completed application pack, the Countersignatory will then log into the Disclosure Scotland portal and provide the applicant's name, DOB, address and email address details.

The applicant will be emailed a link to access their online form by Disclosure Scotland. This link must be used within fourteen days otherwise they will need to be sent a new one. Disclosure Scotland will issue a reminder 9 days and 2 days before the link expires.

• The applicant completes the relevant form on the Disclosure Scotland portal

Disclosure Scotland will then undertake their checks and issue the results

A paper certificate is posted to the applicant and a copy is sent to DDC. This copy may be paper or digital.

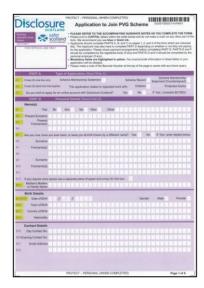
• Ensure that you thoroughly check the certificate to ensure all the information is accurate and that the applicant has provided their full details.

PLEASE NOTE: Paper applications are an option however they may take longer to be processed by Disclosure Scotland and their preference is to use the online system.



The Application

What do the paper application packs contain?



Application Form

Disclosure Scotland, PVG application form.



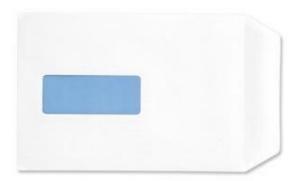
Verifier ID Check Sheet

For the verifier to complete when the applicant provides their original identity documents. This will then be sent to DDC as confirmation that the process has been completed by an authorised verifier.



Guidance Notes

Two sided guidance on which identity documents Disclosure Scotland accept in support of an application.



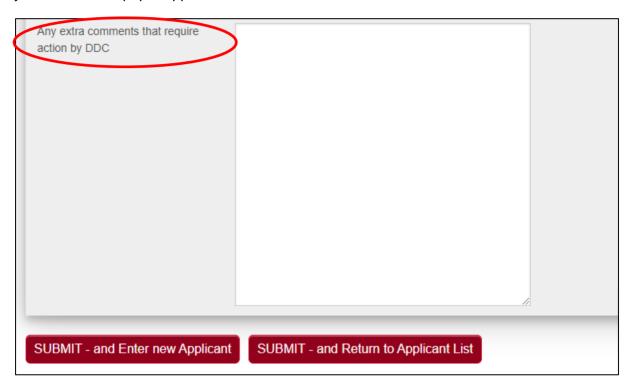
Addressed Envelope

A strong A5 envelope to return the completed application form, the Verifier ID Check Sheet and the photocopy of identity documents to DDC. Please note postage is required.



For paper applications

Paper PVG applications should only be requested where an applicant is incapable of completing an online application. To request a paper form, you must specifically state that you would like a paper application form in the comments box.



Hand a pack directly to the applicant and ask them to complete all the information.

For some Verifiers or Appointers, it may be easier to hold a stock of PVG application packs to hand directly to applicants to complete. If this would be easier please contact DDC directly and request that these packs are sent to you.

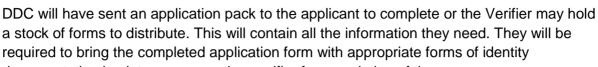
OR

Request a single pack is sent directly to the applicant. Please note that to use this system you will need to specifically state so in the comment box illustrated above.



The Process - Paper

Step 1 – Applicant completes the application form



documentation back to you or another verifier for completion of the process.

Step 2 – Verify and copy the ID documents



The applicant should bring you a minimum of 3 identity documents as listed on the guidance notes in the application pack. As the Verifier, you should:

- Ensure the correct forms and combination of documents have been produced
- Check that the documents are authentic and original
- Photocopy all the identity documents making sure all personal data they contain is clear on the copy
- Complete the Verifier Identity Document Check Sheet which was enclosed with the application pack and ensure it is signed.
- Return the original identity documents to the applicant.

Step 3 – Return the completed application pack



Return the completed application pack in the addressed envelope provided.

Please include:

- Completed and signed application form (signed by the applicant)
- If the applicant requires a PVG Scheme Update application, please include a full copy of their most recent PVG Scheme Record certificate
- Photocopies of original identity documents (minimum of three)
- Completed and signed Verifier Identity Document Check Sheet
- Continuation sheets if used

PLEASE NOTE: Remember to pay the postage for the return envelope.



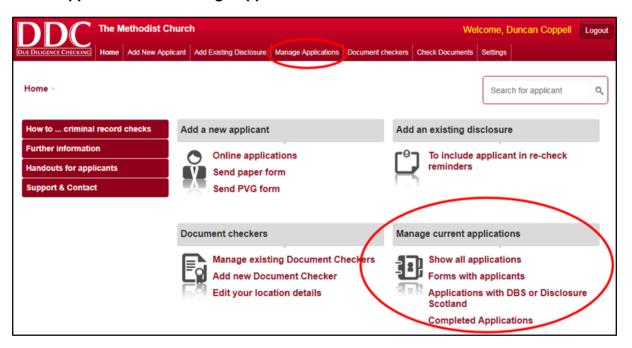
DDC will process the application form and check the details of the identity documents match the information on the form. We will then countersign the application and send it to Disclosure Scotland.

When the Scheme Record or Scheme Update is issued, Disclosure Scotland will send a paper copy to the applicant's home address and will also send DDC a copy. We will let you know via email when we receive this (if you have provided a contact email address).

You can view the list of created applicants via the 'Manage Applications' link in the Client Area shown below. For more information on this feature, see the Tracking Applications section of this guide.

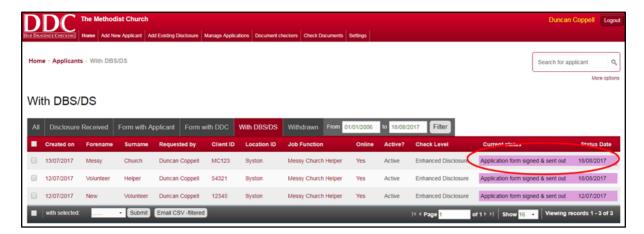
Tracking Applications

1. To see the status of applications already initiated click "Manage current applications" or "Manage Applications"



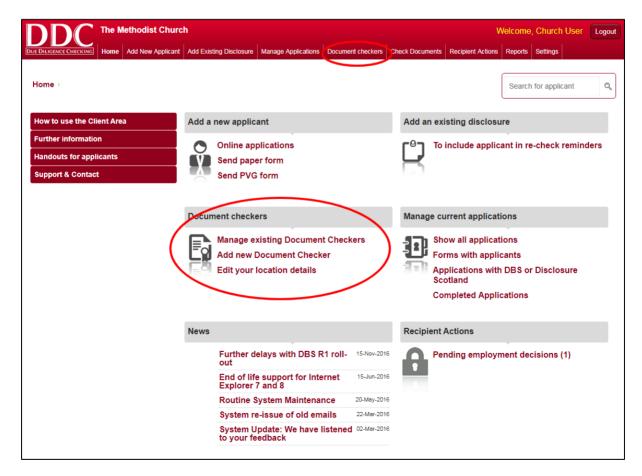


2. From this section, you can sort applicants into categories, order them or search for individual applicants. To find out more about the progress of a particular applicant, click on 'Current Status'.



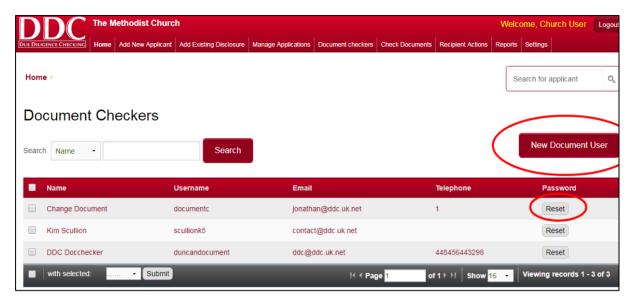
Adding local Lay Verifiers

Circuit level users are authorised to add/delete/edit Lay Verifiers. To do this please click on the 'Document Checkers' button along the top or the 'Manage existing Document Checkers' from the Home Screen.





This section allows the enabled user to add new Verifiers, reset passwords and manage those already with access to the system. Please note that any Verifier completing the Verifier ID Check sheet on behalf of the Circuit must be listed on the system. If they are not listed then DDC will be unable to accept documents signed by them.





Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know when a Scheme Record/Update has been issued?

When a Scheme Record/Update is issued the applicant is always sent a paper copy to their home address directly from Disclosure Scotland. You will be sent an email confirming when it has been received by DDC. This email confirms the document issue number and issue date, which can also be found in the "Manage Applications" section of the Client Area. The applicant should <u>not</u> start working in their role until you have received this email. You do not need to view the applicant's Document.

2. What happens if the Scheme Record is blemished or new information is available? (i.e. is not clear.)

The Disclosure Scotland Code of Practice requires that document information, including whether a Scheme Record has content, is only made known to those who need to know as part of their duties. You are not required to see or request to see blemished Scheme Records.

The Connexional Safeguarding Team and District Safeguarding Officers are responsible for handling blemished Scheme Records or notifications of new information present. DDC will contact these teams directly if a new Scheme Record is required or if one is issued that contains information to be reviewed.

They will then carry out a risk assessment of the information contained. If an applicant is cleared to work in a role, you will receive a standard email notification confirming the document issue number and date. If an applicant is deemed unsuitable to work in a role, or should work within particular conditions, you will receive a specific notification containing the relevant information. Applicants should <u>not</u> start working in their role before you receive such notification.

3. What documentation will the applicant need to submit to me as the verifier?

The required documentation is explained to the applicant in the guidance contained in the application pack. You can also use this as guidance or the Verifier ID Check Sheet. If you would prefer you can view our website www.ddc.uk.net/documents or you can find a printout of the documentation required in the Client Area under "Handouts for applicants".

Disclosure Scotland requires that the Umbrella Body (DDC) countersigning the application obtain documents to validate the applicant's identity. To do this DDC utilise the requirements as set out by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) which may include the verification of the identity of the applicant by a third party (Experian Limited).

4. What do I do if the applicant has brought the wrong documentation?

If the documents provided do not meet the requirements, the applicant will need to provide alternatives. Please wait until you have the correct documentation before returning the application pack to DDC, to prevent any delays with the process.



5. I do not have an email address or use a computer. How do I request new checks?

DDC can provide you with blank application packs for PVG checks. You can give a paper pack to the applicant who should complete it and arrange to see you for identity documentation verification. There are two different application forms depending on whether the applicant is already a member of the PVG Scheme. If they already have a PVG scheme membership, give them an Existing PVG Scheme Member Application pack. If they are not, give them an Application to Join the PVG Scheme pack.

The applicant will need to give you their application, together with the Verifier ID Check Sheet, which is included in the pack. When you meet with the applicant you must complete the check sheet and take photocopies of the original ID documents. You should then send the ID check sheet, the completed application form and the photocopies of the original ID documents to DDC in the envelope provided.

6. Why do I need to send photocopies of the identity documents to DDC with the application?

The checking of identity is the most crucial part of the process and any errors at this point can lead to an inaccurate Certificate being issued, and an employment decision based upon wrong information. The Verifier plays a crucial role in ensuring that the correct identity documents are presented by the applicant. Sending photocopies of documents enables us to carry out the second and third stages of the identity checking outlined below and ensure that a compliant process has been followed.

The initial part of the process requires the Verifier to check that the identity documents presented match the person presenting them. This includes all initial checks such as matching the photo to the individual, ensuring any signatures are consistent and checking the documents show no sign of tampering.

The second part of the process is checking that documents presented match the requirements for identity verification. DDC will also assist in this process by double checking the copy documents that we receive against current requirements and advising if any further information or documents are required.

Finally, DDC will run additional checks to make sure that all form information submitted matches the information contained in the documents and that there are no discrepancies, for example, another name not declared on the form. We will then keep a log of the information to provide an audit trail for the Methodist Church, should they require it.

7. How do I register another verifier for my Circuit?

If a church or Circuit wishes another representative of the church to help manage the PVG application process and verify the identity of applicants undertaking a PVG application, the name and contact details of additional representatives should be sent to your local Circuit or Church Minister. Details required are:

- Address (home address)
- Telephone (home telephone number or mobile number)



- Email
- Circuit (for which you will be a Verifier)

8. I am stepping down as a Verifier, who should I tell?

If you are a Lay Verifier then please tell your local Minister and they can remove your log-in details from the system. If you are a Minister or Superintendent please contact the Methodist Connexional Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk or direct to 02074 675 189.

9. I need to change my details, who do I tell?

To change your details please contact DDC directly who can amend basic details however we recommend that you let the Connexional Team know about your new details if you are a Minster or Superintendent.



Job Roles

The system has been pre-loaded with job roles that meet the requirements of the Methodist Church in Scotland, as agreed with the Connexional Team. The following types of check will be requested when the corresponding job role is selected.

If the role you are looking for is not on the list or you are doing a check for someone with multiple roles please select the one that will cover the activities that the role/s need to be checked for.

Job Role	Vulnerable Groups	Paid / Volunteer
Adult volunteer working with vulnerable adults	Adults	Volunteer
Adult worker working with vulnerable adults	Adults	Paid
Children and Adults Worker	Children and vulnerable adults	Paid
Children and Adults Worker (Volunteer)	Children and vulnerable adults	Volunteer
Children and Young People's volunteer	Children	Volunteer
Children and Young People's worker	Children	Paid
Circuit Safeguarding Officer	Children and vulnerable adults	Volunteer
Circuit Superintendent	Children and vulnerable adults	Paid
Deacon	Children and vulnerable adults	Paid
District Chair - Superintendent	Children and vulnerable adults	Paid
Local Church Safeguarding Officer	Children and vulnerable adults	Volunteer



Pastoral Visitor*	Adults	Paid
Presbyter	Children and vulnerable adults	Paid
Supernumerary minister – not in active ministry, NOT REQUIRED (Please check)**	Children and vulnerable adults	Volunteer
Supernumerary volunteer	Children and vulnerable adults	Volunteer

^{*} This role is only to be requested by the Superintendent, who will review the work being undertaken by the individual to confirm that it meets Regulated Work requirements.

For more information on safer recruitment please go to the Methodist website:

http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/recruitment-dbspvg-forms-etc/safer-recruitment-policy-and-practice-guidance/

^{**} Please check if the minister is in active ministry. If not then a check is not required.