



Department  
for Transport

David J Rowlands AC/AM  
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National Assembly for Wales  
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From the Parliamentary  
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*Email: [SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales).*

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 21 June, about Petition P-05-748 School Buses for School Children.

National legislation requires all coaches and minibuses, carrying groups of children of 3 to 15 years of age on organised trips, to be equipped with seat belts. The legal requirement to fit seat belts does not apply to other types of bus, including those authorised to carry standing passengers, and typical of the type used in commercial bus services. These tend to travel relatively slowly, over short distances, with frequent stops. It is recognised that on urban routes, the benefits of seat belts may be lower than on rural or high speed routes and the design of many urban buses makes it technically difficult for adequate seat belts to be fitted retrospectively.

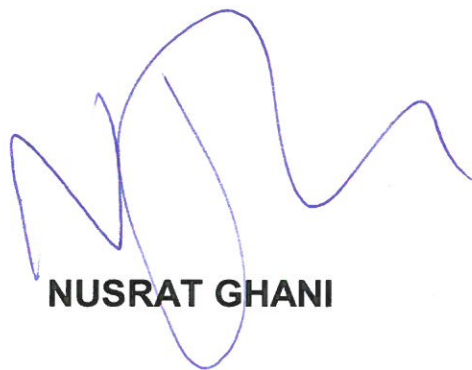
The petitioner suggests that all bus drivers should be required to obtain a criminal record certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The legislative framework covering the disclosure of criminal records and eligibility for criminal record certificates is centred on Part 5 of the Police Act 1997 and is designed to allow appropriate levels of checks where these are necessary to protect vulnerable groups. Not all roles where there will be some contact with children and other vulnerable people are eligible for checks that disclose spent convictions or cautions.

It is for the employer or organisation regulating a particular activity to decide whether the role is eligible for a criminal record check. Further guidance regarding eligibility is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-check-eligible-positions-guidance>.

Recruitment decisions rest with the employer and the provision of criminal information is intended to assist employers to make safer recruitment decisions. Where a role is not eligible for a criminal record check the employer or organisation can request a potential employee to obtain a basic certificate which anyone can apply for. This will show details of convictions and conditional cautions that are considered to be unspent under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Yours sincerely,



**NUSRAT GHANI**