

BRIEFING NOTE: REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS LEGISLATION

In June 2014, the UK Supreme Court (UKSC) issued a decision regarding the disclosure of convictions in England and Wales. That case dealt with convictions on standard or enhanced disclosures that are considered '*spent*' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The court held that the system of automatic disclosure of all such convictions in higher level disclosures violated Article 8 (respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

In Scotland higher level disclosures means standard and enhanced disclosures issued under the Police Act 1959. *See* *Heald v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police* [2015] 1 AC 61 (UKSC 54).