

Gloucestershire County Council Policy on Undertaking Overseas Checks

As part of the assessment process, Gloucestershire County Council will sometimes undertake checks with an overseas authority. These will normally be undertaken where:

- The applicant has lived abroad for more than a year in one main country and can provide an address for the purposes of the check;
- The period in question is within the last 10 years, and/or is of a relatively long duration compared with the time spent living in the UK;
- It is not possible to obtain a sufficiently detailed and reliable employer reference from a recognised international company or organisation for the period in question;
- The country in question has a sufficiently developed legal and administrative system to make it likely that a check might be considered valid and reliable.

In applying this policy, Gloucestershire County Council will use some discretion, taking into account individual factors, including the quality of personal references that cover the period during which the person was living abroad and the emerging evidence in the assessment more widely.

The source of the check, and how it will be undertaken, will inevitably vary according to specific circumstances of the country in question.

Efforts will be made to initiate these checks at Stage 1 in order to reduce the likelihood of delay in completing the assessment.

The reasons for decisions about overseas checks will be recorded and made available within the assessment report.