



Home Office

Why might my details appear on the Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS)?

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Introduction

You may have a profile on the Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS) for a variety of reasons, for example, if your data was recorded during an encounter with the police, if you hold a Firearms certificate, or if you have been reported missing, and your details are held on the National Register of Missing Persons (NRMP). Your data might also be accessed via LEDS for Road Traffic policing where your data is held on by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

The responsibilities for using and processing data on LEDS are established under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and (or) the Data Protection Act 2018 DPA, the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) and the Code of Practice for LEDS.

Although LEDS is not open for public access, individuals can make a Subject Access Request to see any details about themselves held on LEDS. At present most policing data can be accessed through the [ACRO](#) Archive Criminal Records Office, in England and Wales, or through [Police Scotland](#) or the [Police Service of Northern Ireland](#). There will be a simple process for doing this within LEDS with the exact details to be announced closer to the launch of LEDS.

The DPA and GDPR create a right for individuals to access their personal data. There are some exemptions to this right, however, which means that some information may not be provided. For example, you don't have a right to be given information that identifies others or relates to someone else. Also, you don't have a right to personal data that, if provided, would be likely to prejudice a policing purpose or cause harm to an individual.

Reasons for a LEDS entry

Your data may be held by LEDS if you fall into at least one of the following categories:

- you are suspected of committing or planning to commit a criminal offence, or you are subject to a civil order or restriction
- you have been convicted of a criminal offence, or you have accepted a police caution
- you have a legally enforceable restriction placed on your activities by the courts, the police or another official body with such powers
- you are sought by the police or law enforcement agencies because you are believed to have information critical for an investigation or other enquiry, but not as a suspect
- you are sought by Immigration Enforcement because you have over-stayed your UK visa, or have been refused entry to the UK or you are vulnerable and have been reported missing by Immigration Enforcement
- law enforcement has a safeguarding responsibility towards you
- you have been reported missing, and your details have been recorded on the National Register of Missing Persons (NRMP)
- you are applying for, been refused for, hold or have held, a Firearms Certificate

An explanation for each of these reasons is provided below. In some cases, you could have more than one role in your interactions with the police, for example being both a witness and suspect.

You are suspected of committing or planning to commit a criminal offence

LEDS gathers information, intelligence and evidence from across UK police forces and other law enforcement agencies that relate to you if you are suspected of committing, planning or conspiring to commit a crime. Information may also be held by a local police force relating to reported or observed behaviour that could indicate criminal activity.

Your profile in LEDS will use the term **Suspect** to identify why your record is being held. You may be aware that you are a suspect; for example, if you have been arrested and have been released under investigation or on bail. However, you may not know you are a suspect because it would disrupt an ongoing investigation and/or put others at risk of harm.

You continue to be regarded as a suspect in LEDS until:

- you are convicted of a crime (after this you would be referred to on LEDS as an **Offender** – see next section)

- you are found not guilty by a court and there is no other evidence or intelligence to suggest involvement in other crimes. The police may retain your information for a minimum of six years if it is deemed necessary for policing purposes
- the investigation concludes that you are no longer a suspect
- a certain number of years with no activity on your record depending on the severity of the offence(s). More information can be found on the [Information Management Authorised Professional Practice](#) pages of the College of Police website

You have been convicted of a criminal offence, or you have accepted a police caution

In these cases, LEDS will use the term **Offender**, and the entry will remain on the database until:

- you reach 100 years of age, although this is currently under review
- the conviction is subsequently overruled, or otherwise deemed invalid

You have a legally enforceable restriction placed on your activities by policing, the courts or other official body with such powers

You would have an entry on LEDS as a **Controlled Person** if an authorised legal body such as the police or courts had imposed a legally enforceable restriction on your activities in order to protect the public. Examples include:

- conditions set as part of being bailed by the police or the courts
- court or police orders (for example: a non-molestation order)
- licence conditions imposed by a court as part of a sentence or release
- you have been placed on the Violent or Sexual Offenders' Register
- you have been disqualified from driving

You would continue to be identified as a controlled person in LEDS until:

- the imposed restrictions have expired
- the reason for the imposition of the restrictions is no longer valid (for example, withdrawal of a Travel Restriction order)

You are actively being sought because you may have information critical for an investigation or other enquiry, but you are not a suspect

In exceptional circumstances you may have an entry on LEDS where the police or a law enforcement agency has a strong reason to believe you have critical information to support an ongoing investigation and they have not been able to trace you through routine enquiries. However, they do not believe you to be a suspect.

Your entry in LEDS would use the term **Locate**. Once you were located, if there was no other valid reason for your details to be on LEDS, your entry would be removed.

You have overstayed your UK visa, or been refused entry to the UK and have been reported as missing by Immigration Enforcement

If Immigration Enforcement has not been able to trace you through routine enquiries, they will notify the police, who will create an entry on LEDS to circulate your details. If you are encountered by police officers, the information that you are being sought will be visible, and you may be arrested or directed to contact Immigration Enforcement.

Once you are found, the entry will be amended and will remain on LEDS for a specified period; this is currently under review.

Law Enforcement has a safeguarding responsibility towards you

You may have a profile on LEDS if the police, or other law enforcement agency, have a safeguarding responsibility towards you. This will be where:

- a court order or other control has been placed on one or more individuals (such as a non-association condition in bail conditions or a non-molestation protection order) in order to protect you from harm
- there is intelligence that suggest you may be at risk from others as part of an ongoing investigation or operation
- there is intelligence that suggest you may be at risk of harm from others
- you are a child or vulnerable adult where the law enforcement agency or responsible carer believe it is in your best interest to identify your safeguarding need should you come into contact with them (for example, a child who frequently goes missing)

Your record in LEDS will use the term **Safeguarded Person** and the entry will remain until:

- you ask for the record to be removed as applicable under your data rights, or the request is made by your advocate if you are not able to do so. The police may overrule the request if they believe you are still at risk
- the underlying reason for safeguarding is no longer valid
- after a specified amount of time, and you choose for it not to be continued. This is currently under review

You have been identified as missing by a relative, friend, carer or other person concerned for your welfare

A profile for you will be created on the National Register of Missing Persons (NMPP) within LEDS under the category **Missing**. You will be informed of this entry once located, and the data will be kept on the LEDS until six years have passed since you last went missing and were found. Retaining this information allows the police or agencies to view past episodes of absence and potentially spot patterns which could help to safeguard other vulnerable individuals.

The NRMP will not consider a person's right to be in the UK, unless immigration or nationality is important for safeguarding purposes.

You are applying for, hold or have held a Firearms Certificate

In this case your entry in LEDS will use the term **Firearms Licensee**. Your entry would be removed five years after the date you gave up the Firearms Certificate voluntarily. If the licence was refused or is taken away from you (for example, revoked due to a breach of the licence terms), the record would remain on LEDS. The length of time is under review, but under current PNC practices, this would remain until you were 100 years of age.

For more information on retention, review and disposal of data in law enforcement, see the [Information Management Authorised Professional Practice](#) pages of the College of Policing website, accessible to members of the public.

FAQs

Will I be on LEDS because I have been the victim of crime?

Being a victim of crime is not a valid reason, on its own, for you to have a profile on LEDS, although the police may be required to record the name of a victim of a crime. For example, you could be recorded as the manager of a shop that has been robbed. It is possible that the report in which your name appears may be found as part of a wider intelligence search, where such a search can be justified.

If you may still be at risk, you may have a **Safeguarded Person** record as described above.

Will I have a profile on LEDS because I associate with a Suspect or Offender?

Simply being identified as knowing, or being related to, someone who has a profile on LEDS is not a valid reason to create one for you. However, if you are on LEDS for another reason (for example, if you are a Suspect) then LEDS will identify any known associations you have to other people also on LEDS.

As an example, the police may be aware that you are the uncle of one of their suspects, but this is not a good enough reason to create a profile for you on LEDS, unless they believe you are also involved in illegal activity.

Will I have a profile on LEDS because I'm a driver?

You will not have a profile on LEDS simply because you have a driving licence or are recorded as the registered keeper of a car - this data is maintained by the DVLA. However, LEDS does allow a suitably approved user access to DVLA data when investigating an incident under the purposes of the Road Traffic Offence Act 1988 and other legislation. LEDS will rely on an API system that will allow access to the DVLA database via LEDS, but the data will not be copied over in bulk.

You would have a profile on LEDS as a **Controlled Person** if you have been disqualified from driving.

Are there other reasons my details could be found on LEDS?

While you may not have a profile on LEDS, your name and/or other contact details may be held on LEDS where:

- you have reported a vehicle or other property as lost or stolen
- you are a nominated contact for a person for whom there is a law enforcement safeguarding responsibility (for example, you are the carer, social worker or community worker for a person who regularly goes missing)
- you are mentioned in the content of a crime or intelligence report (for example, as a victim)

LEDS refers to this type of data as **Contacts**. Your details will be used only in the context for which they are being held, for example to inform you that your property has been recovered, or to seek assistance for a person for whom you have a recognised safeguarding connection. In all cases, because you do not have a profile on LEDS, your details would not be used for any routine searches.

Your details would remain on LEDS until the related event is no longer retained, or you ask for them to be removed according to your data rights under the DPA.

As a non-UK national, will my details be held on LEDS?

As a tool for law enforcement, LEDS is not concerned with why a person is lawfully in the UK. Therefore, no profile will be created or maintained on LEDS simply because you do not have settled status in the UK.

However, your data may be recorded on LEDS for one of the valid reasons, as with a UK national, (for example if you have committed a criminal offence).

LEDS can be viewed by immigration officers, and the information relating to Suspect, Offender or Controlled Person would be visible to them, along with any warning markers.

Why might my LEDS entry be viewed?

Your entry on LEDS may be searched for and viewed by law enforcement and other permitted agencies in the following circumstances:

- where your entry is deemed relevant to an investigation
- where law enforcement has a reason and legal authority to question and/or detain you (or a person they believe might be you)
- when you are being security vetted for certain occupations or activities
- for data management purposes

How much of your data will be made available depends on the agency and role of the person making the enquiry and the circumstances under which the search is being made. All organisations with access to the personal data in LEDS will be reviewed and assessed to ensure that the data they see meets their business requirement.

Sometimes your entry may appear in search results when looking for other individuals (for example when you share a similar name or other characteristics of a person being searched for, or where a person being questioned gives false details). In such cases the data available will be used to confirm or deny that you are the person in question.

If you are simply a Contact in LEDS, your details will not be directly searched for, but may appear in the content of a report associated to another person or event (for example, an intelligence report). In these cases, the investigator would have to determine whether this was relevant to the investigation.

Where your record is deemed relevant to an investigation

If you are recorded on LEDS as a **Suspect, Offender, Controlled Person**, or a **Firearms Licensee** your records may be searched for and reviewed during a law enforcement investigation for the purpose of identifying and tracing possible suspects or gathering other intelligence.

If you have only a **Safeguarded Person** profile on LEDS, if you have been a victim multiple times, or are linked to an ongoing investigation, your record will be accessed only where this is directly relevant to the investigation. For example:

- a missing person enquiry
- where you may be at immediate risk of harm
- where there is a risk you may cause harm to other people (safeguarding officers who may need to make contact with you)

Where law enforcement has a reason and legal authority to detain and question you (or a person they believe might be you)

Police and other law enforcement officers have the authority to stop and question people under certain circumstances (for example, at a scene of a possible crime, or if they suspect you as being wanted for questioning).

As part of this, they may choose to search LEDS in order to establish:

- your identity before further discussions are held with you
- whether you pose an immediate threat to the officer and those around them (for example, if you are known to have been previously violent and/or carried weapons)

- if there are any safeguarding concerns to consider (for example, you are recorded as a missing person or under the protection of a court order)
- if there are potential open actions on you (for example, if you are being sought, or have a curfew order)
- after confirming your identity, to see what other information may be available on your entry to assist in the handling of the current situation (for example, if you have a known history of domestic violence)

If you are on LEDS as a **Suspect, Offender, Controlled Person** or **Firearms Licensee** your records will be included in such a search.

If you only have a safeguarding reason for being on LEDS, your record will only be included in a search where the officer believes this is likely to be relevant to the matter they are speaking to you about. For example:

- you appear to be in distress
- you are believed to be at risk of harm

When you are being security vetted for certain occupations or activities

The [Disclosure and Barring Service](#) provides routine background checks for employers and those wanting to work in certain professions. The same function is carried out by [Disclosure Scotland](#) and [AccessNI](#). Some occupations require background checks to be made in order to be allowed into security sensitive occupations (for example, if joining the police).

A LEDS enquiry may be performed as part of this activity and, depending on the occupation, may look at all the data held about you on the system. You will be aware that these checks are being carried out, although you may not be told what data was found as a result of these searches.

You are being considered for jury duty

If you receive a jury summons, once you respond, a check will be conducted to see if you meet a set of jury service criteria. This is normally completed by the Juror Central Summoning Bureau ahead of their confirmation of service to ensure that you are eligible to serve.

The result of the check is recorded on your juror's record in the juror database as passed or failed, the reason is not recorded. Juror records are kept on the Juror database for seven years.

Courts can request an ad-hoc individual check if a juror responds late to their summons and the record has already been transferred to the court, using the same criteria.

For data management purposes

Your entry may be searched for and accessed for data management purposes, for example:

- where an event has occurred that required an update on your entry or existing details (for example, you are arrested or convicted of a further offence)
- when an error has been found on your entry that needs to be corrected
- where your entry is being reviewed, updated or removed due to a data management control (for example, an intelligence report has reached its review date and a decision needs to be made if it is still relevant and legal to retain)
- where you have made a Subject Access Request for your data
- where there has been a technical issue with the system that has impacted your data or the ability to access it, and action needs to be taken to resolve the problem