



Fire Officers' Association

In Brief - Access to Medical Reports Act 1988

This act covers the right to access an individual's medical records for employment or insurance purposes. It includes medical records held by a General Practitioner, hospital and occupational health reports requested by an employer.

Main Points

- A person is entitled to have to access any medical report relating to them which is supplied for employment or insurance purposes.
- The employee must be notified that a medical report is being requested and their consent obtained.
- The employee can withhold consent.
- When giving consent the employee can state that they wish to have access to the report before it is supplied to their employer.
- Where a request for access is made the employee must be allowed 21 days to access the report and make any representation. The employee can ask for an amendment to any part of the report they consider to be incorrect or misleading. The medical practitioner must either amend the report or attach a statement giving the employee's views.
- The employee can ask for copy of a report within six months and the medical practitioner must supply it.
- These provisions are enforceable by the County Court