

**Response to “Impose a limit to criminal record, says ex-convict, 25 years on”  
– ST Forum, 17 Nov 2011**

26 Nov 2011

Dear Editor

We refer to the forum letter "Impose a limit to criminal record, says ex-convict, 25 years on" by Mr Mohd Fauzi (17 Nov 2011).

2 As property transactions involve large sums of money, the Council for Estate Agencies (CEA) needs to ensure that salespersons possess a high level of integrity and honesty to protect consumer interest. Under the Estate Agents Act, a person applying to be registered as a salesperson must fulfil the "fit and proper" criteria which include not being an un-discharged bankrupt and not having criminal convictions involving fraud, dishonesty, drug trafficking or other serious crimes. CEA conducts background checks on applicants seeking to register as real estate salespersons. If applicants have criminal convictions, they need to declare their criminal records in their applications.

3 As a supporter of the Yellow Ribbon Project, CEA strikes a balance between protecting consumer interests and allowing ex-offenders who have reformed to practise as salespersons. Each application by an ex-offender is assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the severity of the offence and when the offence was committed. On this basis, CEA has granted some ex-offenders, as in the case of Mr Mohd Fauzi, the approval to be registered as salespersons.

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