

Guidance on Filtering Rules for DBS certificates issued on or after 28 October 2023

The rules regarding the automatic disclosure of cautions and convictions on a DBS check are set out in legislation.

Standard and Enhanced DBS checks will always include the following records no matter when they were received:

- All convictions for specified offences*
- Adult cautions for specified offences*
- All convictions resulting in a custodial sentence, whether or not suspended, will always be disclosed.

*A 'specified offence' is one which is on the [list of specified offences](#) agreed by Parliament which will always be disclosed (unless they relate to a youth caution) on a Standard or Enhanced DBS check where it resulted in a conviction or an adult caution. Specified offences are usually of a serious violent or sexual nature, or are relevant for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Other records will be included depending on when the caution or conviction was received:

- Any adult caution for a non-specified offence received within the last 6 years
- Any adult conviction for a non-specified offence received within the last 11 years
- Any youth conviction for a non-specified offence received within the last 5 and a half years

An 'adult' is any individual aged 18 or above at the time of the caution or conviction. A 'youth' is any individual aged under 18 at the time of the caution or conviction.

Any unspent convictions or cautions will also appear on a Standard or Enhanced check and therefore unspent records will appear on all levels of DBS checks (Basic, Standard and Enhanced). Guidance on rehabilitation periods can be found [here](#).

Any cautions (including reprimands and warnings) and convictions not covered by the rules above are 'protected' and will not appear on a DBS check automatically.

Cautions, reprimands and warnings received when an individual was under 18 will not appear on a Standard or Enhanced check automatically.

Other information disclosed on an Enhanced DBS check:

Enhanced certificates may also include information taken from police records that a chief officer of a police force considers relevant to the application and ought to be disclosed, this may include information relating to a protected caution or conviction or details of whether an individual is included on one or both barring lists from working with children and/or other vulnerable groups. The disclosure of information taken from police records is subject to [statutory guidance](#).

Further guidance on the filtering of criminal records is available from:

- the DBS website see [employer's guidance on filtering](#) and [filtering scenarios - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

- [Nacro's Criminal Record Support Service](#) offers advice and guidance on criminal record related issues through their online resources and helpline.
- [Unlock](#) an independent charity, providing information and advice services for people with convictions and also to employers that are receiving and/or making recruitment decisions based on criminal record information.

Filtering rules for DBS certificates issued **prior to 28 October 2023** can be found [on the DBS website](#) for reference.