

A-Z of job roles & eligibility for criminal record checks

About this A-Z

1. This A-Z sets out the levels of criminal record check often required for different jobs and roles.
2. Not all employers carry out a formal criminal record check. Where they do, the level of check will depend on the specific role.

For people with convictions

- The level of criminal record check will determine what details about your criminal record will be disclosed.
- For roles involving basic checks, only unspent convictions are disclosed.
- For roles involving standard and enhanced checks, both unspent and spent convictions are disclosed, unless they are now filtered (or protected as is technically known).
- If you believe that an employer is requesting the wrong level of check, visit our section on [ineligible checks](#) for information on raising this as a query with the DBS.
- *We have further guidance on [criminal record checks for employment](#) on our self-help information site.*

For employers

- The level of criminal record check you can carry out will depend on the specific role that you are recruiting for.
- It is important that you undertake the correct level – it is a criminal offence to knowingly carry out a level check that the role is not entitled to.
- *This A-Z only gives an indication as to level of check. We have further guidance on [carrying out the correct level of check](#) on our website for employers.*

Notes about the table

The table refers to the “DBS exceptions list” in places – this can be found in the [DBS guide to eligibility](#).

Job Role	Potential level of check	Notes
Accountant (Chartered/Certified)	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 09). Visit becoming an accountant
Actor/Actress	Basic	If a child is participating in the same production as an actor, this should not make the role exempt from the ROA. If an actor is directing a production primarily involving children then, an enhanced check may be necessary
Actuary	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 11)
Acupuncturist	Standard	A standard check will be necessary if you wish to register with the British Acupuncture Council
Agricultural labourer	Basic	Unlikely to carry out formal checks
Airport staff	Basic	Most airport roles will require you to hold an airside pass. A basic check will form part of the process. Visit the Civil Aviation Authority website for further information.
Ambulance service	Enhanced + barring	
Architect	Basic	
Army	Basic	A check may be necessary for some entry level positions. Further information at Army Recruitment
Baker	Basic	
Bank clerk	Basic	
Bank manager	Standard	Assuming that the position would be FCA approved. Read more at FCA - approach to adverse disclosure .
Bar staff	Basic	
Barrister	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 08). Visit the Bar Council .
Beauty therapist	Basic	Therapists carrying out special treatments, i.e. manicures, heat treatments etc will need to register with their local council . A basic check will form part of this process.
Blacksmith	Basic	
Bodyguard	Standard	Will require an SIA Licence prior to employment. Visit Security Industry
Book-keeper	Basic	
Bookseller	Basic	

Builder/Contractor	Basic	If you will be working on school premises with the possibility of unsupervised access to children, an enhanced check may be necessary
Bus/coach driver – not a school bus	Basic	For more information see Becoming a lorry or bus driver.
Bus/coach driver – school bus	Enhanced + barring	
Butcher	Basic	
Call centre worker	Basic	It may vary depending the nature of work
Careers advisor	Basic or Enhanced	Will be an enhanced check if working as an advisor with under 18's.
Carer	Enhanced + barring	
Chef	Basic	
Chef – in a school or care premises	Enhanced + barring	
Childminder	Enhanced + barring	DBS exceptions list 36. Visit childminder for further information
Chiropodist	Enhanced + barring	Roles are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Chiropractor (registered)	Enhanced + barring	An enhanced check will be necessary if you are registered with the HCPC or British Chiropractic Association.
Civil engineer	Basic	
Civil servant	Basic	All civil servants are subject to Baseline Security Standard checks which require a basic check. Posts which require Security Clearance will be checked against the Police National Computer (PNC). Visit Working for the Civil Service.
Cleaner	Basic or Enhanced	If the job is based in a school, hospital etc an enhanced check will be required
Clerks and officers of Law Courts	Standard	DBS exceptions list 29
Construction manager	Basic	Depending on the site you will be working on (i.e. school), an enhanced check may be required
Council administrator	Basic	
Councillor	Basic	Although this is not on the DBS exceptions list, the current law states that you are not eligible to be a Councillor if you have been sentenced to prison for 3 months or more (including suspended sentences) during the five years prior to election day
Courier	Basic	
Crown Prosecution Service	Standard	DBS exceptions list 15. Some positions may also require Security Clearance which will be checked against the PNC

Dentist/Hygienist/Auxiliary	Enhanced + barring	Roles are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council .
Detention centre (immigration) officer	Enhanced	DBS exceptions list 18. Some positions may also require Security Clearance where your records will be checked against the Police National Computer
Doctor	Enhanced + barring	Doctors need to be registered with the General Medical Council . For further information visit working in the healthcare sector .
Doorman/Bouncer	Standard	Will require an SIA Licence prior to employment. Visit Security Industry
Draughtsman	Basic	
Driving instructor	Enhanced	You will be required to register with the ADI who will undertake the enhanced check. Visit becoming a driving instructor
Electrician	Basic	
Engineering construction	Basic	
Engineering designer	Basic	
Estate agent	Basic	Visit the National Association of Estate Agents for further information.
Farmer	Basic	
FCA Approved Person	Standard	Visit financial services sector and FCA – approach to adverse disclosure .
Financial services: Banking	Standard	
Financial services: Building society	Standard	
Financial services: Credit management	Standard	
Financial services: Insurance	Standard	
Fire Service	Standard	Recently added to the DBS exceptions list. For further information visit the Fire Service website .
Fitness trainer/Instructor	Basic	An enhanced check may be necessary if you were training children
Football steward	Standard	DBS exceptions list 45
Forensic scientist	Enhanced	DBS exceptions list 17 - if employed to assist a Police Force
Forester/Tree surgeon	Basic	
Funeral director	Basic	
Game keeper	Basic	
Government legal services	Standard	For more information visit Government Legal Profession .
Grounds keeper	Basic	If working on school or college grounds, an enhanced check may be necessary
Hairdresser	Basic	

Home inspector for care homes	Enhanced	If employed by the Care Quality Commission
Hospitality	Basic	
Information technology	Basic	For further information visit IT sector
Insurance	Basic	If the person in the role is not required to be an FCA Approved Person.
Journalist	Basic	
Judicial appointment	Standard	DBS exceptions list 14. Some positions may also require Security Clearance where your records will be checked against the Police National Computer.
Justices executive/ clerk/assistant	Standard	DBS exceptions list 29
Landscape architect/ Gardener	Basic	
Lawyer/Solicitor	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 08). For further information visit Solicitors Regulation Authority .
Legal executive	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 13). Visit CILEX Regulation
Librarian	Enhanced	Although not on the DBS exceptions list many librarians will be expected to be involved in unsupervised 'teaching, training or instruction of children' and so an enhanced check will be carried out
Licensed conveyancer	Standard	Visit the Council for Licensed Conveyancers .
Lifeguard	Enhanced	For more information visit Becoming a Life Guard
Locksmith	Standard	DBS exceptions list 51. Only a requirement to be a member of the Master Locksmiths Association
Lorry driver	Basic	For more information see Becoming a lorry or bus driver .
Market stall trader	Basic	Many councils will ask that market stall traders have a licence to trade which would require a basic check
Martial arts instructor	Enhanced	If working on a regular basis with children
Mayor	Basic	See Councillor
Mechanic	Basic	
Medical practitioner	Enhanced + barring	Doctors need to be registered with the General Medical Council . For further information visit working in the healthcare sector .
Member of Parliament	None	You are disqualified from being an MP if you have been found guilty and sentenced to more than 1 year in prison and are currently detailed as a result of that sentence. Visit MP for further information

Merchant Navy	Basic	For entry level posts
Milkman	Basic	
Miner	Basic	
Minister of Religion	Enhanced	The Church of England and other main stream religions make this clear in their recruitment policies.
Ministry of Defence	N/A	See Civil Service
Model (e.g. fashion)	Basic	
Mortgage advisor	Standard	Most mortgage advisors roles are FCA registered
Mountain rescue	Enhanced	All mountain rescue teams state this in their recruitment policies. Possibly because of the likelihood of having unsupervised access to children
Musician	Basic	Unless you are carrying out a specific role with children
National Trust executive	Basic	Some roles which require instructional work with children may require enhanced checks
NHS administration roles	Enhanced	
Nurse/Midwife	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit the Royal College of Nursing .
Oil/Gas extraction	Basic	
Optician - dispensing	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit the General Optical Council .
Osteopath - registered	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit the General Osteopathic Council .
Painter/decorator	Basic	
Paralegal	Basic	For further information visit the National Association of Licensed Paralegals .
Personal assistant	Basic	
Personnel	Basic	
Pharmaceutical chemist	Enhanced	For further information visit the General Pharmaceutical Council
Photographer	Basic	
Physicist	Basic	Unless involved in security related work
Physiotherapist	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
Pilot	Basic	The Civil Aviation Authority say that certain aviation roles are subject to National Security Vetting. However, these roles are not published.
Plumber	Basic	
Podiatrist	Enhanced + barring	Roles are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Police constables	Security vetting	Roles will require Security Clearance where your records will be checked against the Police National Computer

Postman/woman	Basic	
Printer	Basic	
Prison officer	Security vetting	Roles will require Security Clearance where your records will be checked against the Police National Computer
Prison visitors (IMB)	Security vetting	Roles will require Security Clearance where your records will be checked against the Police National Computer
Private investigator	Standard	Licensed by the SIA. DBS exceptions list 59
Probation officer	Enhanced	DBS exceptions list 20
Psychologist (chartered)	Enhanced + barring	Roles are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). For further information visit the British Psychological Society .
Psychotherapist	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
Public house manager/licenced trade	Basic	
Publisher	Basic	
Quarrying	Basic	
Radio broadcaster	Basic	
Railway worker	Basic	
Road safety officer	Enhanced + barring	Work will predominantly be 'teaching and instructing' children
Roofer	Basic	
Royal Air Force	Basic/Standard/Enhanced	Will be dependent on the role undertaken
Royal Navy	Basic	A check may be necessary for some entry level positions. Further information at Royal Navy
Royal Navy - Medical branch	Enhanced + barring	
RSPCA	Standard	Where a person is responsible for carrying out the humane killing of animals. DBS exceptions list 24
Sales representative	Basic	
Scaffolder	Basic	
School - non teaching	Enhanced	If you are likely to have unsupervised access to children
School Governor	Enhanced	See Keeping children safe in education guidance implemented in September 2016 and updated in 2025.
Scrap metal dealer	Basic	All Councils require a licence for which a basic check is required. See scrap metal dealer
Secretary	Basic	
Security guard	Standard	Regulated by the SIA
Shop assistant	Basic	

Social worker	Enhanced + barring	Roles are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Solicitor	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 08).
Sports referee/Umpire/Official	Enhanced + barring	If role will involve working with under 18's
Sportsman/woman	Basic	
Statistician	Basic	
Steeplejack	Basic	
Surgeon	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit the Royal College of Surgeons
Surveyor (Chartered)	Basic	
Taxi driver	Enhanced	DBS exceptions list 56. For further information see Driving Licences for Taxi's and Private Hire Vehicles
Taxidermist	Basic	
Teacher	Enhanced + barring	For further information visit Get Into Teaching
Teaching assistant	Enhanced + barring	
Telesales executive	Basic	
Television presenter	Basic	
Toilet attendant	Basic	
Trading standards officer	Basic	
Traffic warden	Standard	DBS exceptions list 19
Train driver	Basic	
Tram driver	Basic	
Travel agent	Basic	
Undertaker	Basic	
University lecturer	Basic	<p>DBS position (May 2017) - Higher education establishments are not specified in SVGA as they are not 'wholly or mainly' for the full time education of children so they would be relying on the regulated activities set out in SVGA.</p> <p>As a general rule, universities do not have under 18s attending courses on a regular basis. This means that they would not fall under regulated activity – even if they have visiting 6th formers for a day they are unlikely to meet the period condition.</p> <p>However, if a university can evidence that an under 18 has been enrolled on the course then the teaching and pastoral staff they come in to contact with (in line with the period condition) would be eligible for an enhanced check.</p>

Veterinary surgeon	Standard	On entry into the profession only (DBS exceptions list 10).
Waiter/Waitress	Basic	If the role involves working in care premises then an enhanced check will be necessary
Welder/Fabricator	Basic	
Woodworker	Basic	
Youth worker	Enhanced + barring	
Zoo worker	Basic	