

DBS Certificates Key Takeaways

Our bitesize guide to DBS certificates:

DBS certificates are official documents that provide vital information about an individual's criminal history, or lack thereof.

This entry-level background check reveals unspent convictions and conditional cautions, which are typically required for roles that have little contact with vulnerable people.

The most thorough check, which includes additional data from local police forces, is required for roles that require unsupervised access to vulnerable groups.

Employers frequently initiate the DBS application process for their employees to ensure that candidates meet the eligibility criteria.

DBS certificate processing times vary, with basic checks typically taking a few days and standard or enhanced checks potentially taking several weeks.

What is a DBS Certificate

Types of DBS Checks

DBS checks are classified into three types: basic, standard, and enhanced, each with varying levels of detail about an individual's criminal record.

Basic DBS Check

Standard DBS Check

A more thorough check that includes both spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands, and final warnings, which is frequently required for positions of trust.

Enhanced DBS Check

Online Access

Individuals can view their own DBS certificates online, but only if they applied for them and received the digital version.

Employer's Role

Delivery

The DBS certificate can be sent to the applicant's home address or directly to the employer, depending on who initiated the check.

Processing Time

Legal Requirement

Employers are required by law to request the appropriate level of DBS check for positions involving vulnerable individuals in order to ensure their safety and suitability for employment.