

FOR INFORMATION AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY – LAUNCH DATE AND LINK TO LEGISLATION WILL FOLLOW ASAP

In response to COVID-19, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will put temporary arrangements in place to provide DBS checks and fast-track emergency checks of the adults' and children's barred lists free-of-charge (PLEASE NOTE THE EBULK SYSTEM ADMIN FEE WILL REMAIN BUT THE DBS' PORTION WILL BE FREE) to healthcare and social care workers being recruited in connection with the care and treatment of COVID-19.

A full list of eligible emergency roles within NHS health services, social care services or social services functions in connection with the provision of care and treatment of coronavirus disease can be found in The Serious Organised Crime and Policing Act 2005 (Commencement No.16) Order 2020 (**link will be provided in next update**).

Please note that roles eligible for fast-track emergency checks are different to those defined as 'key workers' for the purposes of childcare etc.

These arrangements will provide employers with the option to appoint new recruits into regulated activity with adults and/or children, as long as appropriate measures are put in place to manage the individual until the full DBS check is received.

This service will be available imminently, and once this is activated we will link it **here**. any applications received before commencement will not benefit from the service.

Before accessing this new Fast-track emergency DBS service, here are some key facts and prompts to inform your emergency planning risk assessment:

- About 95% of all Enhanced with Barred List DBS checks have no information included on them.
- Only 0.02% of Enhanced with Barred List DBS checks state that the person is on a barred list.
- If the person you are looking to volunteer as part of these emergency measures has had an Enhanced with Barred List DBS check in the last 3 years, as long as it is for the same workforce (i.e. children and/or adults), consider whether you can use the recent check to determine suitability for the role applied for.
- If the person you are looking to volunteer as part of these emergency measures has an existing subscription to the Update Service using a DBS Enhanced with Barred List check, assess the suitability of the applicant using the original certificate and a check of the Update Service.

How do we apply for COVID-19 Fast-track Barred List Checks?

In order to benefit from the free-of-charge fast-track service you should submit enhanced applications through the usual channels following the steps described below.

The application form / online application should be completed as follows:

1.Question: "position applied for?": include the text "COVID-19" in addition to the usual workforce and job title information. These three pieces of information ("COVID-19", workforce, and job title) can appear in any order. e.g. CHILD AND ADULT WORKFORCE COVID-19 DOCTOR

2.Question: “are you entitled to know whether the applicant is barred from working with children?”:
Place an X in the Yes Box

3.Question: “are you entitled to know whether the applicant is barred from working with adults?”:
Place an X in the Yes Box

4.Question: “is this application for a free of charge volunteer?”: Place an X in the Yes Box

The Fast-track service will provide a check of both barred lists. For the check to be processed free-of-charge at the DBS please ensure that it is submitted as a volunteer application. We are unable to refund fees if applications are not completed as detailed above. Please note that Workforce details should be included in the “position applied for” field as usual.

What DBS will do, and how results are returned?

DBS will check all the relevant applications against the Adults’ and Children’s Barred Lists and will email the results to us at Care Check to send on to the employer/volunteering organisation. DBS aim to provide results to us at Care Check by the end of the next working day. The results provided will state that no match has been found, or that they should await the full completed DBS check before making a recruitment decision.

When to apply for Fast-Track Barred List Checks

This service must only be used where organisations are recruiting volunteers that fall within the definition provided in The Serious Organised Crime and Policing Act 2005 (Commencement No.16) Order 2020. All other appointments that are eligible for an Enhanced with Barred List DBS check must be processed in the usual way. This is to ensure emergency checks can be processed without delay.

Organisations are reminded that they may accept previously issued DBS checks. Any decision to use previously issued checks should be made at a local level as part of a wider risk assessment. Employers should also establish whether potential volunteers are subscribed to the DBS Update Service which may allow recruitment to take place more quickly.

Using the Adult First Service

Where applications are submitted using the guidance above there is no need to submit a separate Adult First check.

Joining the Update Service

Applicants should not subscribe to the Update Service using a check submitted according to the process described above. Also, these checks should not be added to an existing subscription. Any free-of-charge Fast-track checks that are added to an Update Service subscription will be de-linked and subscriptions cancelled where appropriate.