



DBS CHECKS

Guide to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The Baptist Union of Great Britain

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Please note: This guide contains information on DBS applications for voluntary workers and paid employees. It does not cover accredited Baptist ministers, whose checks are managed by your local association team.

1. AN INTRODUCTION TO DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS

Welcome to the BUGB guide to DBS checks. DBS checking is a vital part of our safeguarding approach. This guide aims to give ministers, church leaders and DBS verifiers more information about the DBS checking process, and how it applies to paid and volunteer roles in church life.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is a government agency which provides information about employees' and volunteers' criminal records history, so that employers are able to make safer recruitment decisions. The DBS check whether an individual has any criminal convictions, if they are barred from working with children or adults at risk and if the police hold any other relevant information about that person.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) uses the umbrella agency Due Diligence Checking Ltd (DDC) to process DBS checks on our behalf. Checks are free of charge for voluntary workers and £44 for paid staff (the cost of the DBS fee). All the processing costs are met by BUGB.

Using the DBS checking service

To use this service, churches can nominate a DBS verifier. We recommend that more than one verifier is appointed where possible to provide cover for holidays or ill health. Please refer to the [*FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*](#) section (page 8) for information about how to register a church verifier. Please note that Ministers and Church Secretaries are currently automatically registered as church verifiers. On the Annual Returns form, churches will be given the option of whether they would like their Minister / Church Secretary to continue to be registered as a verifier.

DBS checks can be carried out using either an online or paper application process. We recommend that the online system is used wherever possible, as it is much quicker and easier than submitting a paper application.



2. ONLINE APPLICATIONS

The DDC online application system is extremely simple to use and the DDC support team is on hand to offer any support needed. There is also a step by step Quick Start Guide for verifiers on the DDC website (www.ddc.uk.net/baptists).

To access the online system a verifier needs to have their individual password and login information, which is provided by DDC. The system is easy to use, with a helpful drop down list of worker role titles included – please see the *WORKER ROLE TITLES* section (page 5) in this guide for help with which role to select.

The online system also has a fast turnaround time, as DDC sends applications on to the DBS within two working days of receipt. On average it takes two weeks for the DBS to process the disclosure, but please bear in mind that it can take a lot longer and, wherever possible, don't leave checks until the last minute.

3. PAPER APPLICATIONS

If verifiers are not able to use the online application system, an alternative paper process is available. A Quick Start Guide for verifiers can be found on the DDC website (www.ddc.uk.net/baptists). Paper packs can be requested from the DDC support team on 01162 603055 or by emailing contact@ddc.uk.net.



4. ELIGIBILITY FOR DBS CHECKS

Workers who have specific roles or duties with children or adults at risk may be eligible for a DBS check. This covers both paid workers and volunteers.

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

An adult at risk is defined as anyone aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care of or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation.

4.1 What type of checks are available and what are the eligibility criteria?

There are two types of DBS check which are relevant for church workers and volunteers:

1) **Enhanced DBS check – *including the barred list check***

The Enhanced DBS check with the barred list check is only applicable to those working with children or adults at risk in a specified role, who are working in what is known as *regulated activity* (see [APPENDIX 1](#), page 12, for definitions). Day to day management or regular supervision of a person who is working in regulated activity, is also regulated activity.

There are a number of roles within the church setting which would require this level of DBS check. For those working with children, there are specific frequency requirements* which must be met for particular activities to be deemed as regulated activity. Those working with children must also be unsupervised** in order to be eligible for this level of check. *For example, a youth worker volunteering on a weekly basis in a team without a designated 'leader', or without a 'leader' supervising the worker at all times.*

2) **Enhanced DBS check – *excluding the barred list check***

The Enhanced DBS check without the barred list check is available to those working closely with children or adults at risk in a specific role, but who do not meet the current definition of regulated activity (see [APPENDIX 1](#), page 12, for definitions). *For example, children's workers who are continuously supervised in their work, or who do not meet the DBS frequency requirements* to be eligible for a barred list check, such as workers on a monthly rota.*

Enhanced checks without the barred list check can also be carried out for church trustees (who may be known as Deacons). Although they might not directly work with vulnerable people, they have been placed in an important position of trust.

** once a week or four or more times in a 30 day period*

***Unsupervised in this context means not being under continuous supervision from a designated supervisor who is DBS checked.*

4.2 Examples of roles requiring a DBS check

DBS Check Usually Required		DBS Check Not Required
Roles eligible for a DBS check <u>including</u> the barred list check	Roles eligible for a DBS check <u>excluding</u> the barred list check	
Children's worker who is unsupervised and whose role involves working frequently* or overnight	Children's worker who is constantly supervised	Caretaker (unless in a 'specified place' - see <i>APPENDIX 1</i> for details)
Supervisor of a person working in regulated activity (see <i>APPENDIX 1</i> for details)	Children's worker who does not meet the DBS frequency criteria* (for example, works on a rota)	Gardener / flower arranger
Adults at risk worker who does the shopping, helps with the bills or provides assistance with eating, drinking or going to the toilet**	Adults at risk worker who works closely with adults at risk, but is not doing the shopping, helping with the bills or providing physical assistance (for example, a pastoral visitor)	Tea & coffee maker or lunch host
	Trustee	DBS Verifier
		Designated Person for Safeguarding
		Office worker
		Church welcoming team / stewards / servers
		Nationally Recognised Preacher

Please bear in mind that the examples given are not an exhaustive list and whether or not someone needs a DBS check will depend on what activities they carry out within their role. For more information about eligibility for a DBS check, please contact DDC.

**once a week or four or more times in a 30 day period*

***Please note that such activities are only eligible for a DBS check if they are being done on behalf of the church. Personal arrangements do not qualify for a DBS check.*

5. WORKER ROLE TITLES

When using the online application system, verifiers will be prompted to select from a drop down list of role titles. Please use the tables below to make sure the appropriate job title has been selected. For information about what constitutes regulated activity, please see [APPENDIX 1 \(page 12\)](#).



Please note: 'PAID' refers to a paid worker. 'VOL' refers to a voluntary worker.

Those working with adults at risk	
Adults at risk worker with barred list (PAID)	The worker must meet the criteria for working in regulated activity, such as helping with shopping or assisting with personal tasks.
Adults at risk worker with barred list (VOL)	
Adults at risk worker without barred list (PAID)	The worker does not meet the criteria for regulated activity, but is closely working with adults at risk as part of a specific role.
Adults at risk worker without barred list (VOL)	

Those working with children and young people	
Children and youth worker with barred list (PAID)	The worker must meet the criteria for working in regulated activity, such as working frequently with children / youth in an unsupervised capacity.
Children and youth worker with barred list (VOL)	
Children and youth worker without barred list (PAID)	The worker would otherwise meet the criteria for working in regulated activity, but is supervised at all times, and/or working infrequently with children / youth.
Children and youth worker without barred list (VOL)	

Those working with children, young people and adults at risk	
Children youth and adults worker with barred list (PAID)	The worker must meet the criteria for working in regulated activity with both children and adults at risk.
Children youth and adults worker with barred list (VOL)	
Children youth and adults worker without barred list (PAID)	The worker does not meet the criteria for regulated activity, but is closely working with children and adults at risk as part of a specific role/s.
Children youth and adults worker without barred list (VOL)	

Ministers and Trustees	
Ministerial Applicant / Minister In Training NOT TO BE REQUESTED BY CHURCH VERIFIERS	Checks for Ministerial Applicants / Ministers In Training can only be carried out by a local association or college verifier.
Minister - Regionally Recognised (PAID) NOT TO BE REQUESTED BY CHURCH VERIFIER	Checks for Regionally Recognised Ministers can only be carried out by a local association verifier.
Minister - Regionally Recognised (VOL) NOT TO BE REQUESTED BY CHURCH VERIFIER	
Minister - Unaccredited (PAID) PLEASE CHECK ACCREDITATION STATUS	Checks for Unaccredited Ministers can be carried out by church verifiers, but they should check that the minister is unaccredited before doing so.
Minister - Unaccredited (VOL) PLEASE CHECK ACCREDITATION STATUS	
Minister/Church Worker - Accredited NOT TO BE REQUESTED BY CHURCH VERIFIER	Checks for Accredited Ministers (such as Pastors, Evangelists and Youth Specialists) or Accredited Church Workers (such as Children and Family Workers, Youth Workers, Parish Nurses, Church Community Workers and Nationally Recognised Pastors) must only be carried out by a local association or college verifier.
Retired Minister (volunteer)	For a retired accredited Baptist Minister who is working in your church in a non-ministerial role (i.e. is not your church moderator or carrying out any ministerial duties) *
Trustee	Church trustees are eligible for an enhanced check without the barred list check

*If you have a retired accredited Baptist Minister who takes on a ministerial role in your church e.g. as Moderator or as an interim minister during interregnum, they must be DBS checked by your Association team.

If you are unsure about which category to use for a specific role, please contact DDC on 01162 603055 or by emailing contact@ddc.uk.net. Their support team will be happy to help.

6. THE DBS UPDATE SERVICE

The DBS Update Service allows applicants to keep their DBS certificates up to date, and potentially allows employers to check the status of a certificate online without carrying out a new DBS check. It is free of charge for volunteers and £13 per annum for paid staff.

Please note that the update service is not suitable for use by ministers.

What is 'portability'?

Portability allows applicants to take their DBS check with them when they move to a new role or job where the same type and level of check is required. This means that individuals who do similar work for a number of different organisations don't need to complete separate DBS checks for each one. It also means that individuals won't have to apply for a new DBS check when the Certificate for an existing role expires.

Please Note: DBS Certificates are only portable when an applicant joins the Update Service.

How do applicants join the Update Service?

If applicants wish to subscribe to the Update Service, they will need to apply for an initial DBS check in the normal way. Once the certificate has been issued they then have 19 days in which to sign up online. Further information can be found on the DBS website, where applicants can also register for the service.

Please Note: Applicants must sign up to the Update Service within 19 days of their DBS certificate being issued, or they will have to complete a new DBS check in order to do so.

What if applicants have joined the Update Service through another organisation?

If applicants have joined the Update Service via another organisation, their existing certificate may be accepted, provided their application is for work with the same group (ie children, adults at risk, or both) and is of the same level. However, verifiers should carry out an identity check in addition to viewing the applicant's original certificate, checking the same documents as required for a DBS check. Any blemished certificates will need to be risk assessed by the BUGB National Safeguarding Team in the normal way (please see the [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#) section, page 8).

How are applicants checked?

Verifiers can carry out a free, instant status check to see if any new information has been added to the applicant's record since the certificate was last issued. If the status check reveals no new information, a new certificate is not needed. Verifiers can carry out status checks as frequently as their church wishes (a minimum of once every five years), as long as they have the applicant's permission to do so. We recommend obtaining written consent for a check to be undertaken.

What record keeping is necessary for the Update Service?

Please see the [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#) section (page 8) for details of the information we recommend that verifiers record.

7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do we order new application packs?

Verifiers can request application packs by calling one of the DDC team on 0845 644 3298 or emailing contact@ddc.uk.net stating their name, the church name, their address and the number of packs required. DDC normally post out 5 packs in each envelope.

Is there a minimum age for a DBS check?

Yes, only individuals aged 16 years and over can be subject to a DBS check.

Can a joint DBS check for children and adults at risk be applied for?

Yes, a DBS check can be completed for someone working with children, adults at risk or both groups.

How are DBS verifiers appointed?

If your church would like to register a DBS verifier, their name and contact details should be sent to our BUGB database administrator using the form available on the BUGB website (www.baptist.org.uk/safeguarding/verifierchangeform). BUGB will inform DDC so they can issue login information. Please do not contact DDC directly to set up a new verifier.

The church verifier contact details have changed – who needs to be told?

Please email the BUGB database administrator at dmoore@baptist.org.uk and we will make sure that our database of verifiers is updated and that DDC is informed.

Our church verifier is stepping down – who needs to be told?

The verifier is a crucial role in the life of your church and we do hope that it has been a rewarding experience. If one of your verifiers is stepping down, please complete our verifier's update form (available on our website). If you are able to give details of the person taking over, that would be a great help. This will need to be verified by your minister or church secretary.

Can a verifier process a family member's application?

No, a verifier is not permitted to process a family member's DBS application. This includes immediate family members as well as those related by marriage. In this situation, either another church member can become a verifier or a verifier based at another local Baptist church can process the DBS application. Please contact the BUGB National Safeguarding Team for further advice.



How does a verifier know when a disclosure has been issued?

When a Disclosure is issued, the applicant is always sent a paper copy to their home address directly from the DBS. If the verifier has an email address, DDC will notify them via email. Alternatively, the verifier can call the DDC team who will tell them if it has been issued and the issue number and date.

If the verifier has access to their online Client Area they can also check this to confirm the certificate status, which can be found in the 'Manage Applications' section. They can also get sight of the Disclosure directly from the applicant. Providing that the certificate is clear, the applicant can start working in the role.

What should the verifier do if an applicant's check is blemished?

If a DBS check comes back with a blemished disclosure, the applicant will be asked to send their original certificate and a photocopy to DDC, and will be given the opportunity to disclose any information they feel is relevant to their application. The original certificate will be returned to the applicant within two working days.

DDC will pass this information on to the BUGB National Safeguarding Team so that a risk assessment can be undertaken. Please note that a blemished disclosure will not necessarily prevent someone from working with children or adults at risk. Risk assessments are taken very seriously and the outcome will be carefully considered, based on the nature of the offence and the role the applicant is looking to undertake.

If an applicant is cleared to work in a role, the verifier will receive the usual email from DDC with the certificate issue number and date (if they do not have an email address, they can call DDC instead). If an applicant is deemed unsuitable to work in a role, or should work within particular conditions, the verifier will receive a specific notification containing the relevant information. Applicants should not start working in their role before the verifier receives such notification.



What record keeping is necessary?

Please Note: This applies to paper applications as well as those completed online and checks accepted via the Update Service.

We would recommend that verifiers keep a record of the following information:

- Applicant's name
- Applicant's date of birth (necessary to carry out the online status check)
- Position applied for
- Certificate number (necessary to carry out the online status check)
- Type of certificate issued (standard / enhanced and whether for children / adults / both)
- Date the certificate was issued
- Date the certificate was viewed by the verifier
- List of any identity documents checked, where necessary
- Details of the recruitment decision made, ie whether cleared (including any conditions) / not cleared to work in the role
- For Update Service checks, only:
 - Applicant's written consent for status checks to be carried out (verifiers can gain ongoing consent rather than having to ask for permission each time)
 - Date of any status checks carried out

Verifiers do not need to keep photocopies of certificates or DDC clearance emails as long as they have recorded the above. Verifiers should make sure that all records are kept securely and can only be accessed by those whose role permits them to do so.



8. KEY CONTACTS

DDC – Due Diligence Checking

DDC are the umbrella body processing DBS checks on behalf of the BUGB.

Telephone: 01162 603055

Email: contact@ddc.uk.net

Address:

Due Diligence Checking Ltd

Meltongate House

1282a Melton Road

Syston

Leicester

LE7 2HD

Website: <http://www.ddc.uk.net>

Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)

Telephone: 03000 200 190

Email address: customerservices@dbs.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service

BUGB National Safeguarding team

Telephone: 01235 517719

Email address: safeguarding@baptist.org.uk

Website: www.baptist.org.uk/safeguarding

BUGB Local Association Safeguarding Contacts

www.baptist.org.uk/safeguardingcontacts



9. APPENDIX 1

9.1 Regulated activity in working with adults at risk

There are six adult regulated activities which require a worker to have a DBS check with the barred list check. There is no frequency requirement for the work involved, so even if a worker is only involved in a regulated activity as a one off, they are still eligible to be checked. Day to day management or regular supervision of a person who is working in regulated activity, is also regulated activity.

The six activities are as follows:

Providing healthcare

Any healthcare professional providing healthcare to an adult

Providing personal care

- Anyone who assists with activities such as drinking, eating, going to the toilet etc.
- Anyone who prompts and supervises with activities such as drinking, eating, going to the toilet etc as the adult cannot make the decision to do so themselves
- Anyone who trains, instructs or offers advice on the above because of their age, illness or disability

Providing social work

Anyone who provides social care

Assistance with cash, bills and/or shopping

Anyone who assists in managing an adult's cash, paying their bills or shopping on their behalf

Assistance in the conduct of a person's own affairs

Anyone who provides assistance in the conduct of an adult's own affairs, for example, lasting or enduring powers of attorney

Conveying

Anyone who transports an adult to, from or between places where they receive health, personal or social care

Please Note: If a worker does not meet the above criteria of 'regulated activity', but is closely working with adults at risk as part of a specific role, they may still be eligible for an Enhanced DBS check without the barred list check. Please contact DDC for advice on a case by case basis.

9.2 Regulated activity in working with children

If a worker's activities meet the specifications below, then they are eligible for an Enhanced DBS check with a barred list check. Day to day management or regular supervision of a person who is working in regulated activity, is also regulated activity.

Activity of a specified nature

- teaching, training, instruction, care for or supervision of children (except if the person undertaking the activities is under constant supervision) if carried out by the same person frequently* or overnight
- advice or guidance (except legal advice) provided wholly or mainly for children which relates to their physical, emotional or educational well-being if carried out by the same person frequently* or overnight.

Activity within specified establishment

- any activity that is for or on behalf of the establishment with the opportunity for contact with children if carried out frequently*:
 - excepted is work by volunteers under regular supervision or occasional or temporary contract work that is not an activity of a specified nature listed above.
- specified establishments are schools, pupil referral units, academies, nursery schools, Further Education establishments mostly for children, institutions for the detention of children, children's homes, children's centres and childcare premises including nurseries.

Healthcare of a child (any frequency)

- healthcare provided to a child by a health care professional or by a person acting under the direction or supervision of a healthcare professional.
- a health care professional who is a person regulated by a professional healthcare regulator (ie a body mentioned in section 25(3) of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002).
- health care includes: all forms of health care provided for children and includes physical, mental and palliative health care; diagnostic tests and investigative procedures and procedures similar to surgical or medical care, but not provided in connection with a medical condition.

Personal Care of a child (any frequency)

- physical help with eating or drinking for reasons of illness or disability.
- physical help with toileting (including menstruation), washing, bathing or dressing for reasons of age, illness or disability.
- prompting together with supervision when a child is otherwise unable to decide for themselves in relation to any of the above personal care activities.
- training or advice given to a child in relation to any of the above personal care activities.

**once a week or four or more times in a 30 day period*

Please Note: If a worker is carrying out the above activities, but is constantly supervised in their work, and/or does not meet the DBS frequency criteria, an Enhanced DBS check without the barred list check can instead be carried out.



This policy has been produced for use in Baptist churches in England and Wales.

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