

What will be filtered by the DBS?

Disclosing to employers - Information series

Since May 2013, standard and enhanced checks no longer disclose ALL cautions and convictions. Following a Court of Appeal ruling, the Government introduced a process of 'filtering'.

How it works

'Filtering' is similar in its concept to the rehabilitation periods under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. However, instead of establishing what is 'spent' and so what doesn't get disclosed on a basic check, 'filtering' establishes what *doesn't* get disclosed on a standard or enhanced DBS check.

Information that is filtered will be removed from a DBS check automatically the next time you apply for one. But it doesn't get 'removed' or 'wiped' from police records. In practice, it means that if you're applying for a job or role that involves a DBS check, you are legally entitled to withhold the details of anything that would now be filtered. For a detailed guide on filtering, [search for 'filtering' on hub.unlock.org.uk](https://hub.unlock.org.uk/search-for-filtering).

What it applies to

Cautions – Multiple cautions can be filtered, so long as the offences are eligible and the relevant time period has passed for each. Each caution is dealt with separately in terms of when it's filtered.

Convictions – Only single convictions that didn't lead to a suspended or custodial sentence can be filtered, so long as the offence is eligible and the relevant time period has passed.

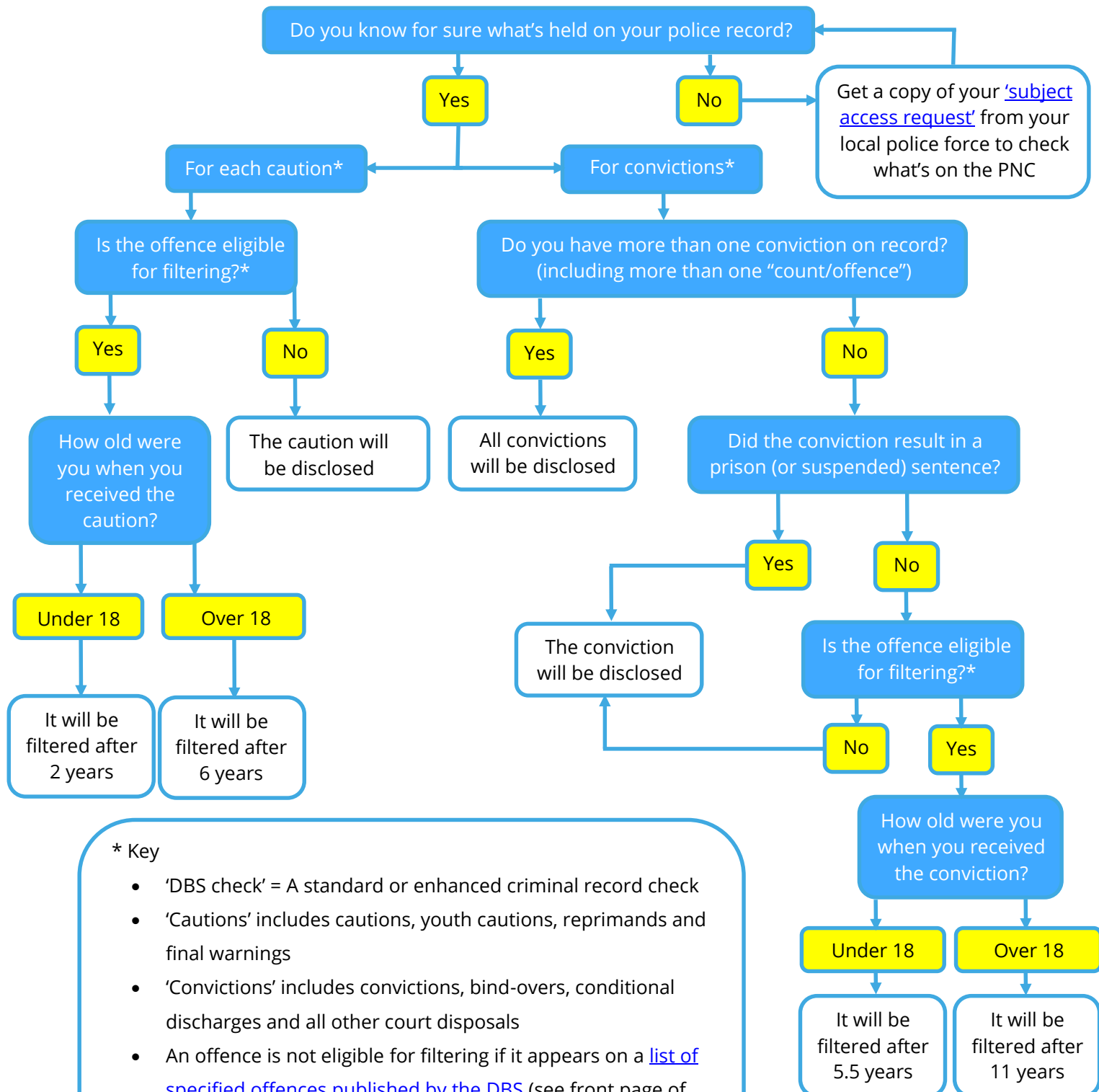
Types of offences*

Eligible for filtering	Not eligible for filtering
Common assault	Offences involving violence
Drunk and disorderly	Safeguarding offences
Many motoring offences	Sexual offences
Drugs offences only involve possession	Drugs offences that involve supply
Theft (where no violence is involved)	

Filtering periods

Age	Cautions	Conviction
Under 18	2 years	5.5 years
Over 18	6 years	11 years

DBS checks* - Filtering flowchart



* Key

- 'DBS check' = A standard or enhanced criminal record check
- 'Cautions' includes cautions, youth cautions, reprimands and final warnings
- 'Convictions' includes convictions, bind-overs, conditional discharges and all other court disposals
- An offence is not eligible for filtering if it appears on a [list of specified offences published by the DBS](#) (see front page of this information for a summary of these).

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