

What will be disclosed on a DBS check?

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'.

'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. In the first 3 months that it operated, 8,344 individuals had a conviction filtered, and 27,903 had a caution filtered.

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](http://hub.unlock.org.uk).

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.

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*

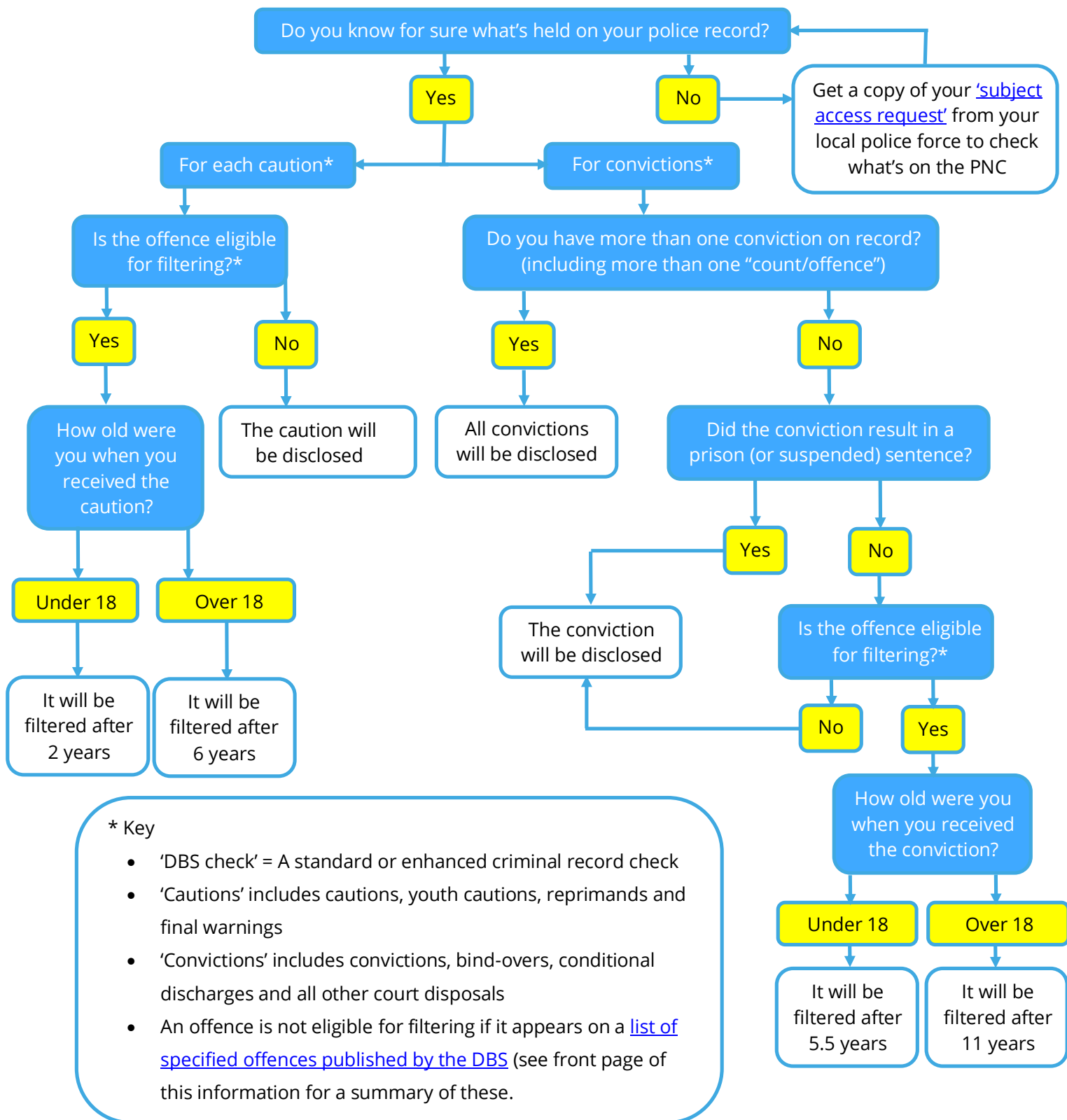
Eligible for filtering	Not eligible for filtering
Common assault	Offences involving violence
Drunk and disorderly	Safeguarding offences
Many motoring offences	Sexual offences
Drugs offences only involve possession	Drugs offences that involve supply
Theft (where no violence is involved)	

Filtering periods

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

* This is a summary only. The DBS has published a [list of specified offences not eligible for filtering](#).

DBS checks* - Filtering flowchart



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