**COVID-19: Changes to DBS ID checking guidelines**

***Temporary changes to ID checking guidelines are being made as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.***

Please note, a previous version of this news story advised that changes were being made to ID guidance for standard and enhanced DBS checks only. This has now been extended to basic DBS checks too, if submitted through a Responsible Organisation.

Due to current measures that have been put in place as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, we’re aware that organisations are having difficulty following the DBS ID checking guidance.

Currently, when validating ID documents, it is best practice to carry the examination out face-to-face with a live video link as an alternative method. Under the current guidance, the ID checker must be in physical possession of the original documents so they can be checked for indicators of fraud.

As the public is being advised to work from home where possible, this is causing difficulties in receiving the physical documents and is delaying applications, and in some cases, preventing applications from being submitted.

To ensure that the necessary DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS ID checking guidance will be changed for a temporary period.

The change will allow:

• ID documents to be viewed over video link

Or, if it is not possible to verify documents via video link:

• scanned images can be viewed in advance of the DBS check being submitted

**This change should only be implemented for urgent cases where it is not possible to follow the normal identity checking guidelines** **The applicant must present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their employment or volunteering role.**

The DBS [online application route](https://www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record) is also available for basic checks, should you be unable to verify an applicant’s identity yourself.

**The change will come into effect immediately.**

Please ensure that you follow the advice on GOV.UK around checking identity documents for indicators of fraud, and what to do if fraud is suspected. This guidance can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-identity-checking-guidelines/id-checking-guidelines-for-dbs-check-applications-from-3-september-2018#how-do-i-check-for-indicators-of-fraud) for standard & enhanced applications and [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-check-guidance-and-policies/basic-check-identity-guidance-from-3-september-2018#how-do-i-check-for-indicators-of-fraud) for basic applications.