

## DBS Checks during Lockdown

To ensure that the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service checks can still be carried out, the "DBS ID Checking Guidance" has changed for a temporary period.

The change in ID checking advice came into effect from 24 March 2020 and holds UFN.

The Safeguarding Team recommends that Parish Disclosure officers only continue to renew DBS check if it is safe to do so using the new advice laid down by the DBS Office.

The link below takes PDOs to the 'gov.uk' site: [COVID-19: Changes to DBS ID checking guidelines Disclosure and Barring Service](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-standard-and-enhanced-id-checking-guidelines). Here it explains how to complete a DBS check during this lockdown phase:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-changes-to-standard-and-enhanced-id-checking-guidelines>

The change will enable:

- ID documents to be viewed over a video link
- scanned images to be used in advance of the DBS check being submitted

Basically the only change is that applicants need to scan their ID documents and email them to the PDO who can then complete the process by contacting the applicant on an agreed date and time to 'see' the applicants face via video link to confirm that the photo ID is a true likeness.

If the applicant is not happy to email their scanned documents to the PDO they have every right to do so. However, when their DBS expires then they cannot continue in their parish role until the end of the Lockdown phase when it is safe to meet up with original ID and their DBS check results are back. PDOs will need to inform their PCC of these posts and explain the delays in renewing relative DBS checks.

There will inevitably be an influx of Parish DBS checks into the Safeguarding admin office once the lockdown has lifted.

The Safeguarding office is equipped to prioritise this as it happens.

If you have any queries please contact the Safeguarding admin office at [Safeguarding@diocant.org](mailto:Safeguarding@diocant.org)

We are happy to help ☺

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