What are disclosure checks?
These are background checks into a person’s criminal history or police record. Generally, it is used by potential employers to assess an individual’s suitability for certain jobs or voluntary work, particularly with children or adults at risk, or when fostering or adopting children.

Who needs a disclosure check?
Anyone who carries out a role in regulated activity / work is required, by law, to have a disclosure check.

What is regulated activity or regulated work?
Regulated activity / work are the definitions, identified in statutory guidance, that outline the types of roles that require disclosure checks before a job is started. Full definitions are enclosed in this pack.

NOTE: Regulated activity is the definition which applies to England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. Regulated work is the definition which applies to Scotland only.

What type of disclosure check do I need?
Disclosure checks are referred to differently across the UK. The type you will need depends on where you work, not where you live. Please see below for more information.

I work in England? You will require a DBS check – see DBS FAQ
I work in Wales? You will require a DBS check – see DBS FAQ
I work in Scotland? You will require a PVG check – see PVG FAQ
I work in Northern Ireland? You will require an Access NI check – see ANI FAQ

What level of disclosure check do I need?
All checks must be enhanced with child barred list.

How often does it need to be updated?
All checks must be updated every three years.

Why do I need this in place?
Disclosure checks are a legal requirement for anyone working or volunteering with children to ensure they are suitable to carry out this type of work.

How much will it cost?
The cost depends on the type of check you need. See specific guidance for DBS, PVG or Access NI.

How do I obtain a disclosure check?
You need to get in touch with your Branch / Centre to obtain a check.

Do I need to keep my certificate safe after my Branch or Centre has seen it?
Yes, you should keep your certificate safe for the validity period of three years.