



Disclosure & Barring Service

4th October 2021

Dear Registered Body/Responsible Organisation

Update regarding current high level of demand for DBS Checks and processing times

So far this year the number of requests for DBS checks has seen a steady increase and despite this, we (the DBS) have still been able to meet all of our published service standards.

As we (the DBS) see extraordinary high levels of recruitment across the country not just in the care sector and gig economy, but also the start of companies recruiting casual labour in the run up to Christmas, we (the DBS) expect this demand to further increase.

During September, we (the DBS) have processed 690,000 applications, which was 130,000 (23%) more than we (the DBS) had planned for – as organisations have started to recruit more staff following lockdown restrictions. We (the DBS) expect October to be even busier. This means that we (the DBS) may not meet all of our targets in October or November and we (the DBS) are asking people to bear with us while we (the DBS) respond to this unprecedented demand.

Ordinarily, 80% of Enhanced DBS Checks are completed within 14 days, 80% of Standard DBS Checks are completed within 5 days and 80% of Basic DBS Checks are completed within 2 days. We (the DBS) are advising people that DBS checks **may take an additional five days to process**.

Our staff have worked tirelessly hard throughout the pandemic to ensure employers receive the vital information they need to make safer recruitment decisions. We (the DBS) continue to work 7 days a week to keep on top of demand and are recruiting extra staff to deal with our demand. We (the DBS) have also continued to stop those people who we (the DBS) believe pose a risk to children and vulnerable groups from working in regulated activity. We (the DBS) will continue to do this as we (the DBS) know and recognise the vital role we (the DBS) play in recruitment and safeguarding the most vulnerable.

We (the DBS) anticipate a return to normal levels of demand towards the end of the year.