

DBS Update Service for Volunteers (Free subscription)

The DBS Update Service

The [DBS Update Service](#) is an online subscription service that allows volunteers to keep their DBS certificates up to date. It also allows organisations to check a certificate online with the volunteer's consent. As a volunteer, you can use your certificate again when applying for another role where the same type and level of DBS check is required.

Key Points

- The Update Service is free for volunteers.
- You can apply while waiting for your DBS check to be processed using the application form reference number or e-reference number.
- If you wait until you receive your DBS certificate, you have 19 days to use the certificate number to apply.
- You can choose automatic renewals, which will renew your subscription each year automatically.
- Automatic renewal must be selected when you first register and cannot be added later.

A benefit for all is that it speeds up the process of starting a volunteering post for you and reduces time spent on the background administration for the charity.

DBS has further information on its update service [webpage](#) and online [DBS Applicant Guide](#).

Please note that Age UK Birmingham are not DBS experts and you will need to refer to the DBS website and guides for more information. Some further information is provided below help.

About the DBS Update Service

- Registration lasts for one year.
- There is no charge for volunteers joining the service.
- If the DBS certificate is for a paid role, the subscription costs £16 per year.
- The subscription begins from the date the DBS certificate was issued.
- The annual fee must be paid by debit or credit card.
- The Update Service website is hosted on a secure system and is available in English and Welsh.

Benefits of joining the Update Service

- Save time and money
- As a volunteer you can take the DBS certificate from role to role within the same workforce (as long as the same level of check is required)

Information Guide

- If looking for paid employment, it will allow employers to instantly check the online status of a DBS certificate linked to your subscription (with your consent) but you may need to join the paid subscription if this is a possibility.
- Enhances safeguarding processes within organisations