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## **What is the difference between a DBS check and a police check?**

Ramya Sehmi - 2026-06-23 - [Comments \(0\)](#) - [Encyclopedia of screening terms](#)

In the UK, a DBS check is the formal term for a police record check. Elsewhere, 'police check' may refer to a different process some countries issue police clearance certificates. Effectively, a DBS is the UK's equivalent of a police clearance certificate.