



Mental Health Act 1983

This guide gives an overview of your rights under the Mental Health Act. It includes FAQs, explanations of legal terms and links to further information and support.

If you require this information in Word document format for compatibility with screen readers, please email: publications@mind.org.uk

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About the MHA 1983

The Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 is the law in England and Wales which was updated in 2007. It tells people with [mental health problems](#) what their rights are regarding:

- assessment and treatment in hospital
- treatment in the community
- pathways into hospital, which can be civil or criminal

Many people who receive inpatient treatment on psychiatric wards have agreed to go into hospital as [informal patients](#) (also known as voluntary patients). However, over half are in hospital without their agreement as [formal patients](#). This is because they have been detained under the Mental Health Act (often called being sectioned).

If you are a formal patient you lose certain rights, including the right to leave hospital freely, so if you're in this situation it's really important to know your rights under the Mental Health Act.

What does the Mental Health Act cover?

The Mental Health Act is divided up into lots of different **sections**. These contain information on:

- Your rights when you are detained in hospital against your wishes (see our legal pages on [sectioning](#)).
- Your family's rights when you are detained (see our legal pages on [nearest relative](#)).
- Your rights when you are detained in hospital and also part of the criminal justice system (see our legal pages on [the courts and mental health](#), [police and mental health](#) and [sectioning](#)).
- Your rights around consent to treatment when you are detained (see our legal pages on [agreeing to treatment](#)).
- Your rights when you are leaving hospital, including how to have your section lifted and care planning (see our legal pages on [leaving hospital](#)).
- Your rights when you are being treated in the community, for example receiving section 117 aftercare or on a [community treatment order \(CTO\)](#) (see our legal pages on [health and social care rights](#)).

(See our page of [Mental Health Act FAQs](#) for more information.)

What other laws do I need to know about?

As a person with a [mental health problem](#) living in England or Wales, these are some other key pieces of legislation which set out some of your rights and protect you from discrimination:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#)

- [Care Act 2014](#) (applies to England)
- [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) (applies to Wales)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)

You can find more information on your rights in different situations on our other pages on [your legal rights](#).

Where can I get legal support?

For further legal information you can contact:

- Mind's [Legal Line](#)
- a local [Law Centre](#)
- [Civil Legal Advice](#)
- [Citizens Advice \(England\)](#) or [Citizens Advice \(Wales\)](#)
- a private solicitor – [The Law Society](#) website can provide a list of qualified solicitors in your area.

You may also be legally entitled to an **advocate** - someone who can help you understand your rights and make your voice heard. (See our page on [statutory advocacy](#) for more information.)

If you're looking for information in an accessible format for people with learning disabilities, you can find a series of Easy Read factsheets on your rights under the Mental Health Act on the [NHS Choices website](#).

Terms you need to know

Appropriate adult

If you are held by the police and they realise, or are told, that you have a [mental health problem](#), you have the right to be accompanied by an appropriate adult.

They should be an adult who is independent of the police, such as a member of your family or a mental health worker, but they cannot be your solicitor. You may be asked if you have a friend or family member you would like to ask or it could be a professional.

An appropriate adult should:

- make sure that you get a solicitor
- request that you are seen by a doctor
- help you to communicate with the police
- be present if you are questioned about an offence

(For more information, see our legal pages on the [police and mental health](#).)

Appropriate treatment (or appropriate medical treatment)

This means medical treatment for your [mental health problem](#) that is:

- suitable for you
- available
- takes into account the nature and degree of your mental health problem and your individual circumstances

Approved clinician

A mental health professional who has certain responsibilities related to your healthcare. They are approved to do this by the Department of Health (England) or by the Welsh Ministers (Wales).

Approved clinicians may be:

- doctors
- psychologists
- nurses
- occupational therapists
- social workers

Some decisions under the Mental Health Act, such as deciding on your medication or giving you permission to leave the ward or hospital, can only be taken by approved clinicians.

Approved mental health professional (AMHP)

AMHPs are mental health professionals who have been approved by a local social services authority to carry out certain duties under the Mental Health Act. They are responsible for coordinating your assessment and admission to hospital if you are [sectioned](#).

They may be:

- social workers
- nurses
- occupational therapists
- psychologists

Attorney

An attorney is a person over the age of 18 whom you have appointed to make decisions on your behalf about your welfare and/or your property and financial affairs. You need an attorney if you are unable to make such decisions yourself. If you do not have the [capacity](#) to appoint an attorney, the [Court of Protection](#) will appoint a deputy to perform this role.

- A health and welfare attorney makes decisions about things like your daily routine, your medical care, where you live and, if you specially request this, whether you should have life-sustaining treatment.
- A property and financial affairs attorney makes decisions about things like paying bills, collecting benefits and selling your home.

Capacity

'Capacity' means the ability to understand information and make decisions about your life. Sometimes it can also mean the ability to communicate decisions about your life.

If you do not understand the information and are unable to make a decision about your care, for example, you are said to **lack capacity** about something.

(For more information see our legal pages on the [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#).)

Care Act 2014

This is the law which sets out the local authorities' duties in relation to assessing people's needs and their eligibility for care and support (adult social care), including carers who need support. It applies in England only.

Care coordinator

A care coordinator is the main point of contact and support if you need ongoing mental health care.

They keep in close contact with you while you receive mental health care and monitor how that care is delivered – particularly when you're outside of hospital.

They are also responsible for carrying out an assessment to work out your health and social care needs under the care programme approach (CPA).

A care coordinator could be any mental health professional, for example:

- nurse
- social worker
- other mental health worker

This is decided according to what is most appropriate for your situation.

A care coordinator usually works as part of the [community mental health team](#).

Community mental health team (CMHT)

CMHTs support people with mental health problems living in the community, and also their carers. The team may include:

- a social worker
- a community psychiatric nurse (CPN)
- a psychologist
- an occupational therapist
- a counsellor

- a community support worker

Community treatment order (CTO)

If you have been [sectioned](#) and treated in hospital under certain sections, your [responsible clinician \(RC\)](#) can apply for you to be put on a CTO. This means that you can be discharged from the section and leave hospital, but you might have to meet certain conditions such as:

- living in a certain place
- going somewhere for medical treatment

For more information about what a community treatment order is, how it affects you and how you can change or end it, see our legal pages on [community treatment orders \(CTOs\)](#).

Conditional discharge

This is where you are discharged from hospital into the community by a tribunal or the Secretary of State for Justice, but you have to meet certain conditions. If you break these conditions, you can be recalled to hospital by the Secretary of State for Justice.

You will only be put under a conditional discharge if you have been:

- [sectioned](#) by a court under certain sections of the Mental Health Act, and have been charged with a crime, and you are a restricted patient under a restriction order, or
- transferred to hospital from prison under the Mental Health Act and you are a restricted patient under a restriction direction

Court of Protection

The Court of Protection makes decisions and appoints deputies to act on your behalf if you are unable to make decisions about your personal health, finance or welfare.

Data Protection Act 2018

The Data Protection Act 2018 is the law that gives you rights to look at and have copies of information held about you by various organisations and agencies.

Detained

A person is detained if they are being kept in hospital under section and are not free to leave.

Displacement

Displacement is where you change your [nearest relative \(NR\)](#). The process of changing the nearest relative is often known as 'displacement proceedings'. Your nearest relative can be displaced if you or the local authority have concerns about the way that they are behaving.

Equality Act 2010

This is the law that explains:

- what behaviour counts as unlawful discrimination

- who has a right to challenge discrimination

(For more information on the Equality Act 2010, see our legal pages on [disability discrimination](#).)

Escorted leave

This is where you are allowed to leave the ward accompanied by a member or members of the hospital staff. Your [responsible clinician \(RC\)](#) grants you permission to leave the ward under section 17 of the Mental Health Act.

Formal patient

A formal patient is someone who is being [detained](#) in hospital under a [section](#) of the Mental Health Act, and is therefore not free to leave.

Guardianship

This is where someone called a [guardian](#) is appointed to help you live as independently as possible in the community, instead of being [sectioned](#) and kept in hospital.

You would be placed under guardianship if your mental health problem meant that it would be difficult for you to avoid danger or people taking advantage of you. Your guardian has the power to make certain decisions about you and to make conditions that you will be asked to keep to.

Hospital managers (also known as Mental Health Act managers)

An independent team of people in a hospital who make sure that the requirements of the Mental Health Act are properly applied. They have certain important responsibilities and can make decisions related to your detention.

In practice, most of the day-to-day decisions are taken by individuals authorised by the hospital managers to do so. This can include hospital staff. Decisions about discharge are normally delegated to a team of people who are independent of the hospital. You can apply to them to be discharged from your [section](#) and they will decide whether or not to discharge you.

Human Rights Act 1998

In the UK, our human rights are protected by law. This law is called the Human Rights Act 1998.

(For more information, see our legal pages on the [Human Rights Act 1998](#).)

Independent mental health advocate (IMHA)

An IMHA is an advocate specially trained to help you find out your rights under the Mental Health Act and help you while you are detained. They can listen to what you want and speak for you.

You have a right to an IMHA if you are:

- detained in hospital under a [section](#) of the Mental Health Act, but not if you are under sections 4, 5, 135 and 136
- under [guardianship](#), [conditional discharge](#) and [community treatment orders \(CTOs\)](#)
- discussing having certain treatments, such as [electroconvulsive therapy \(ECT\)](#)

In Wales, [voluntary patients](#) can also have an IMHA.

(For more information, see our pages on [IMHAs \(England\)](#) and [IMHAs \(Wales\)](#).)

Judicial review

This is a type of court procedure where a judge reviews a public authority's decision, policy, practice, act or failure to act, and decides whether it is lawful or not.

If it is not lawful, the court may cancel the decision or action ('quash' it), and require the public authority to reconsider it, lawfully. The court can order the authority to do or not do something.

Legal aid

Legal aid is financial support which can help meet the costs of legal advice, family mediation and representation in a court or tribunal. You can find out more about legal aid on the [UK government website](#). You can also contact [Civil Legal Advice](#) to find out whether you're eligible.

Litigation friend

A litigation friend is someone who can take your place in legal proceedings, if you lack [capacity](#) to take part yourself. For example, the litigation friend could instruct solicitors on behalf of you, or speak to the judge directly on your behalf. A litigation friend could be a family member, a friend, or the [Official Solicitor](#).

Medical treatment

In the Mental Health Act this means medical treatment that is used to relieve the signs and symptoms of your mental health condition, or to stop it from getting worse. It includes:

- nursing
- psychological intervention and specialist mental health habilitation (learning skills)
- rehabilitation (relearning skills)
- care

Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is the law that tells you what you can do to plan ahead in case you can't make decisions for yourself, how you can ask someone else to make decisions for you and who can make decisions for you if you haven't planned ahead.

(For more information, see our legal pages on the [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#).)

Mental disorder

When the Mental Health Act talks about someone with [mental health problems](#) and whether or not they should be [sectioned](#), it often uses the term "mental disorder". The Act defines this as "any disorder or disability of mind" (section 1).

Mental disorder can include:

- any mental health problem normally diagnosed in psychiatry
- learning disabilities, if the disability makes you act in a way which may seem "abnormally aggressive" or "seriously irresponsible"

Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA)

This is a law that applies to England and Wales which allows people to be detained in hospital ([sectioned](#)) if they have a [mental disorder](#) and need treatment. You can only be kept in hospital if certain conditions are met.

(For more information, see our legal page [about the Mental Health Act 1983](#).)

Mental Health Act administrator

The [administrator](#) works in the hospital and deals with collecting and keeping the [section](#) or [community treatment order \(CTO\)](#) papers safe. They make sure that procedures are followed – like making sure you are given the right information and arranging hearings.

Mental Health Act Code of Practice

This tells health professionals how they should follow the Mental Health Act. It is not law, so it cannot be enforced by going to court, but health professionals should follow it unless there is a good reason not to.

The Code covers some areas not specifically mentioned in the Mental Health Act 1983, such as visiting rights and the use of seclusion.

If a health professional doesn't follow the Code, you can make a complaint.

Mental Health Tribunal (MHT)

This is a special court that deals with cases relating to the Mental Health Act. The Tribunal decides whether you can be discharged from your section and can decide about suitable aftercare and make recommendations about matters such as hospital leave, transfer to another hospital, [guardianship](#) and [community treatment orders \(CTOs\)](#).

The court is made of a panel, which normally includes:

- a legally qualified chairperson
- a 'lay person' who has appropriate experience and qualifications in the area of mental health
- an independent psychiatrist, who will speak to you and examine you before the tribunal hearing in certain circumstances, and when you request to see them

Where you see a reference to the Mental Health Tribunal on Mind's website, it means:

- First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health), if you live in England, or
- Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales, if you live in Wales

Nearest relative (NR)

This is a family member who has certain responsibilities and powers if you are detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act. These include the right to information and to discharge in some situations.

The law sets out a list to decide who will be the nearest relative. This can sometimes be changed.

(For more information see our legal pages on the [nearest relative](#).)

Parental responsibility

This is a legal term which means that a person has rights and responsibilities towards a child.

Patient

This is defined in the Mental Health Act as a person suffering or appearing to be suffering from [mental disorder](#).

Personal Information

Information which relates to you in such a way that you can be identified from the information.

(For more information on your rights regarding your personal information, see our legal pages on [my personal information](#).)

Place of safety

A locally agreed place where the police may take you to be assessed, usually a police station or a hospital. A police station should normally only be used in an emergency.

Recalled

This means that you can be returned to hospital. It applies to you if you're on section 17 leave, on a community treatment order or have been conditionally discharged from hospital.

If you're on a CTO you can be recalled for up to 72 hours if the responsible clinician thinks that:

- you need medical treatment in hospital for your [mental disorder](#), and
- there would be risk of harm to your health or safety or to others if you are not recalled.

You must meet both criteria.

Registered medical practitioner

A qualified doctor, for example a GP or psychiatrist.

Remand

In this context, this means that you are sent to hospital by the court either before or after trial for medical examination. This is so a medical report on your mental condition can be prepared.

Responsible clinician (RC)

This is the approved clinician in charge of your care and treatment while you are sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Certain decisions, such as applying for someone who is sectioned to go onto a CTO, can only be taken by the responsible clinician. See our pages on [CTOs](#) for more information.

All responsible clinicians must be approved clinicians (AC). An AC could be a doctor, psychologist, nurse, occupational therapist or social worker.

Revocation

This is a legal definition which means that your [community treatment order \(CTO\)](#) has ended and that you are [detained](#) under the original [section](#), for example section 3.

Second opinion appointed doctor (SOAD)

This is an independent doctor appointed by the [Care Quality Commission](#) in England or by the [Healthcare Inspectorate Wales](#). You need his or her approval to be given or continue to be given certain forms of medical treatment under the Mental Health Act.

(For more information see our legal pages on [agreeing to treatment](#).)

Section

Being 'sectioned' means that you are kept in hospital under the Mental Health Act. There are different types of sections, each with different rules to keep you in hospital. The length of time that you can be kept in hospital depends on which section you are detained under.

(For more information see our legal pages on [sectioning](#).)

Section 12 approved doctor

A doctor trained and qualified in the use of the Mental Health Act, usually a psychiatrist. They may also be a [responsible clinician \(RC\)](#), if the responsible clinician is a doctor.

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

This is the law which sets out in one place the local authorities' duties in relation to assessing people's needs and their eligibility for care and support (child and adult social care), including carers who need support. It applies in Wales only.

Supervised community treatment (SCT)

You can be under supervised community treatment if you are put under a community treatment order (CTO).

For more information about what a community treatment order is, how it affects you and how you can change or end it, see our legal pages on [community treatment orders \(CTOs\)](#).

Voluntary patient (also known as informal patient)

These are people who are staying in a psychiatric hospital but are not detained under the Mental Health Act. They should be able to come and go from the hospital within reason and are able to discharge themselves if they decide to go home. See our [Voluntary patients](#) section for further information.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section provides brief answers to the most common questions you may have about your rights under the Mental Health Act, and lets you know where you can find more detailed information on our website.

Can I be made to stay in hospital against my will?

In certain circumstances you can be made to go to hospital under a section of the Mental Health Act, even if you don't want to. There are many terms you might hear used to describe this, including:

- compulsory admission to hospital
- detention or involuntary detention
- being a [formal patient](#)
- being sectioned

Before you can be lawfully sectioned, you will need to be [assessed by a team of health professionals](#), to make sure that it is necessary.

To find out more about when it may be legal to section you, what different sections mean and what your rights are when in hospital, see our legal pages on:

- [Sectioning](#)

I am an informal patient, can I still be sectioned?

If you are in hospital as an [informal patient](#) (also known as voluntary patient), you are free to leave the hospital or ward should you choose.

However, if your care team is worried about you, they can detain you temporarily so that a decision can be made about whether you should be sectioned. When these powers are used:

- you are no longer free to leave and
- you will need to remain in hospital for assessment to see if you need to be detained under section 2 or section 3.

Before you can be lawfully sectioned, you will need to be [assessed by a team of health professionals](#), to make sure that it is necessary.

To find out more about when it may be legal to section you, what different sections mean and what your rights are when in hospital, see our legal pages on:

- [Sectioning](#)
- [Voluntary Patients](#)

Can the police be involved in my detention?

Yes, the police may be involved if:

- you are suspected of committing an offence, or

- they need to take you to a [place of safety](#) under sections 135 or 136

To find out more about when and how the police can become involved in each of these instances, see our legal pages on:

- [Police and mental health](#)
- [Sectioning](#)

What role can the courts play in my detention?

If you are going to the criminal court to be tried for committing a crime and the court receives reports from a health professional that you are unwell enough, it can order you to be [detained](#) in hospital:

- while you are awaiting trial, and/or
- as part of your sentence

To find out more about what sections apply here and how this process works, see our legal pages on:

- [The courts and mental health](#)
- [Sectioning](#)

Can I be given treatment against my wishes?

A medical professional should always seek your informed consent before giving you treatment for your physical or mental health.

However, the Mental Health Act says that in some circumstances, you can receive treatment from medical professionals for your [mental disorder](#) without your consent. This can happen when you are [detained](#) under certain sections of the Act.

The Mental Health Act only authorises treatment for mental disorder, so you couldn't be given treatment without your consent for a physical illness under the Act, unless the physical problem is a symptom or underlying cause of a mental disorder.

To find out more about when it's legal to treat you against your wishes, see our legal pages on:

- [Agreeing to treatment](#)

What are my rights?

You still have certain rights when you are in hospital, as well as when you have left hospital. These may include rights to:

- be given information about your section, and about what it means to be in hospital
- appeal to a [Mental Health Tribunal](#) against your section
- get help and support from an [advocate](#)
- meet with the [hospital managers](#)
- [complain](#)
- correspondence and visitors, as well as some telephone access
- vote
- receive care once you have left hospital

To find out more about the rights you have under the Mental Health Act, see our legal page on:

- [My rights](#)
- [Leaving Hospital](#)

Do my family members have any rights?

Your family members may have certain legal rights related to your [sectioning](#). For example, your family member might be your [nearest relative \(NR\)](#). Your nearest relative has certain rights and responsibilities, including a right to:

- apply for you to be sectioned
- receive information about your sectioning
- discharge you if you are sectioned and apply to the [Mental Health Tribunal](#) if this is refused
- object to your sectioning

To find out more about who can be your nearest relative and what they are able to do for you, see our legal pages on:

- [Nearest relative \(NR\)](#)

Is there anyone else who can support me?

In England and Wales, if you have been sectioned you have the right to receive support from an advocate, called an **Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA)**. In Wales, if you are an inpatient (even if you are a [voluntary patient](#) and not sectioned) you have the right to receive support from an advocate. An IMHA can help you do a range of things, including:

- explain your rights and help you exercise them

- express your views
- make a [complaint](#)
- make an application to a [Mental Health Tribunal](#)
- access legal advice

To find out more about what an IMHA can do for you and how to access one, and for information on advocacy more generally, see our legal pages on:

- [IMHAs \(England\)](#)
- [IMHAs \(Wales\)](#)

Can I leave hospital for short periods of time?

If you are [detained](#) in hospital you are sometimes able to leave hospital for a short period of time, even if you are still under section. This is called section 17 leave.

To find out more about taking short periods of leave from hospital while under section, see our legal pages on:

- [My rights](#)
- [Section 117 aftercare](#)

How can I end my stay in hospital?

If you have been [sectioned](#), the Mental Health Act gives you the right to be given information on ways in which your section can end. This may also be called being 'discharged' from your section. You can still stay in hospital even if your section has ended. This is called being an [informal patient](#).

If you want to be discharged and you are under sections 2 or 3, you can:

- ask your [responsible clinician \(RC\)](#) to discharge you
- ask for a meeting with the [hospital managers](#) and ask them to discharge you
- ask your [nearest relative \(NR\)](#) to discharge you
- apply to the [Mental Health Tribunal](#) to be discharged

You could be discharged from hospital onto a [community treatment order \(CTO\)](#). This means you won't have to stay in hospital but there might be some conditions to this, for example you may have to live in a certain place or you might have to go somewhere for medical treatment.

To find out more about being discharged from hospital, see our legal pages on:

- [Leaving hospital](#) and our [discharge FAQs](#)
- [Nearest relative's rights](#)

To find out more about CTOs, see our legal pages on:

- [Community treatment orders \(CTOs\)](#)

Am I entitled to any care when I leave hospital?

You may have a right to free aftercare under section 117 of the Mental Health Act once you have left hospital. This is the help you can receive for free in the community, including healthcare, social care and supported accommodation. You can only get this if you have been on certain sections, for example section 3.

To find out more about what care you're entitled to when you leave hospital, see our legal pages on:

- [Care planning](#)
- [Aftercare under section 117 of the Mental Health Act](#)

Useful contacts

Mind's services

- **Helplines** – all our helplines provide information and support by phone and email. Our Blue Light Infoline is just for emergency service staff, volunteers and their families.
 - Mind's Infoline – 0300 123 3393, info@mind
 - Mind's Legal Line – 0300 455 6453, legal@mind
 - Blue Light Infoline – 0300 303 5999, bluelightinfo@mind
- **Local Minds** – there are over 140 local Minds across England and Wales which provide services such as [talking treatments](#), [peer support](#), and [advocacy](#). [Find your local Mind here](#), and contact them directly to see how they can help.
- **Elefriends** is a supportive online community for anyone experiencing a mental health problem. See our [Elefriends page](#) for details.

Who else could help?

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

cqc.org.uk

For complaints about anything that may have happened during your time in hospital under section (in England).

Citizens Advice

citizensadvice.org.uk (England)

walescitizensadvice.org.uk/wales (Wales)

Provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. They also have an [online self-help](#) service.

Civil Legal Advice

gov.uk/civil-legal-advice

Civil Legal Advice can tell you if you're eligible for legal aid and can give you free and confidential legal advice in England and Wales.

First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health)

gov.uk/courts-tribunals/first-tier-tribunal-mental-health

Deals with cases in England relating to the Mental Health Act 1983, for example deciding whether you can be discharged from your section.

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales

hiw.org.uk

For complaints about anything that may have happened during your time in hospital under section (in Wales).

Law Centres Network

lawcentres.org.uk

Network of local Law Centres which can offer legal advice, casework and representation to people who can't afford a lawyer. Provides an [online list of local Law Centres](#).

The Law Society

lawsociety.org.uk

The Law Society provides details of private solicitors. It has offices in both England and Wales.

Mental Health Lawyers Association

mhla.co.uk

The Mental Health Lawyers Association provides details of private solicitors in England and Wales. It has a geographical list of solicitors specialising in mental health law.

Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=816&pid=34216>

029 2082 5328

Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Deals with cases in Wales relating to the Mental Health Act 1983, for example deciding whether you can be discharged from your section. The NHS Wales website provides more information.

Revolving Doors Agency

revolving-doors.org.uk

For people with mental health problems who are in contact with the criminal justice system.

Disclosure and Barring Service

DBS helpline: 03000 200 190

Minicom: 03000 200 192

Welsh: 03000 200 191

International: +44151 676 9390

customerservices@dbs.gsi.gov.uk

DBS customer services
PO Box 3961
Royal Wootton Bassett
SN4 4HF

The Disclosure and Barring Service is the public agency responsible for processing requests for criminal record checks. They run a helpline for questions about DBS checks.

Independent Monitor

Independent Monitor
Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit
Home Office
4th Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

IndependentMonitor@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

The Independent Monitor is an independent body responsible for reviewing disputes from applicants regarding local police information disclosed on enhanced DBS Certificates.

The Law Society

020 7242 1222 (England)

029 2064 5254 (Wales)

lawsociety.org.uk

The Law Society provides details of solicitors you can get in touch with for specialist legal advice.

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Unlock

01534 247350 (call Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm)

07824 113848 (Text or WhatsApp)

unlock.org.uk

advice@unlock.org.uk

Unlock is a charity that supports with convictions who face challenges because of their criminal record. They have online information resources and offer a helpline service.

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References are available on request.