

Is it spent?

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 gives people with spent convictions and cautions the legal right not to disclose them when applying for most jobs and when buying insurance.

Apart from those individuals who are given prison sentences of more than 4 years, most people with convictions will benefit from it at some point in their lives. The table below sets out the time it takes for the main sentences to become spent under the changes that were introduced in 2014.

If you have access to the internet, you can also use our online tool www.disclosurecalculator.org.uk

Sentences with a buffer period

Sentence		Time it takes to become spent	
		Adult (18+) at conviction/disposal	Young person (U18) at conviction/disposal
Prison (including suspended prison sentences)	Over 4 years or a public protection sentence	Never spent	Never spent
	More than 30 months and less than (or equal to) 4 years	Sentence + 7 years*	Sentence + 3 ½ years*
	More than 6 months and less than (or equal to) 30 months	Sentence + 4 years*	Sentence + 2 years*
	Less than (or equal to) 6 months	Sentence + 2 years*	Sentence + 18 months*
Community order / Youth rehabilitation order		Length of the order + 1 year	Length of the order + 6 months

*Sentence length includes time spent on licence

Sentences with no buffer period

Sentence/Disposal	Time it takes to become spent	
	Adult (18+) at conviction/disposal	Young person (U18) at conviction/disposal
Fine	1 year	6 months
Conditional discharge	Length of the order	Length of the order
Absolute discharge	None – spent immediately	
Conditional caution / conditional youth caution	3 months (or when it ends, if earlier)	3 months
Simple caution / youth caution	None - spent immediately	
Compensation order	Once it is paid in full	
Supervision order	Length of the order	
Binding over order		
Attendance centre order		
Hospital order (with or without a restriction order)		
Referral order		
Reparation order	None - spent immediately	
Motoring endorsement imposed by a court	5 years	2 ½ years
Motoring penalty points imposed by a court	3 years	
Motoring disqualification imposed by a court	At the end of the disqualification	

For information about other sentences, military convictions, the impact of multiple convictions and jobs that require spent convictions to be disclosed, visit hub.unlock.org.uk and search for Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

Unlock Helpline – confidential peer advice on overcoming the effects of criminal convictions

Call: 01634 247350 **Email:** advice@unlock.org.uk **Write:** Helpline, Unlock, Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1HH