



Defence Business Services National Security Vetting

DV Completing your Security Clearance Application

A Guide for Subjects



Completing your Security Clearance Application A Guide for Subjects

Gather personal information together first...

Background – Why you have to be security cleared

Your Vetting Journey – An overview of the National Security Vetting process

Preparation – What personal information should you have ready before you begin?

Getting Started – What do you need to know about the system before you begin?

Working with the online system – Some critical sections of the application form

NSV Contacts – and other useful links



Background

Why you have to be security cleared



If you work with the UK government you may have access to sensitive or classified information or assets. To protect national interests it is necessary for some individuals who have access to or work with sensitive or classified information to hold a security clearance.



National Security Vetting is the process for obtaining security clearance. National Security Vetting ensures that a person's character and personal circumstances are such that they can be trusted to work in a position which may involve access to sensitive information.



An individual applying for clearance is known as the **Subject**.



The person who initiates their application is known as the **Sponsor**.



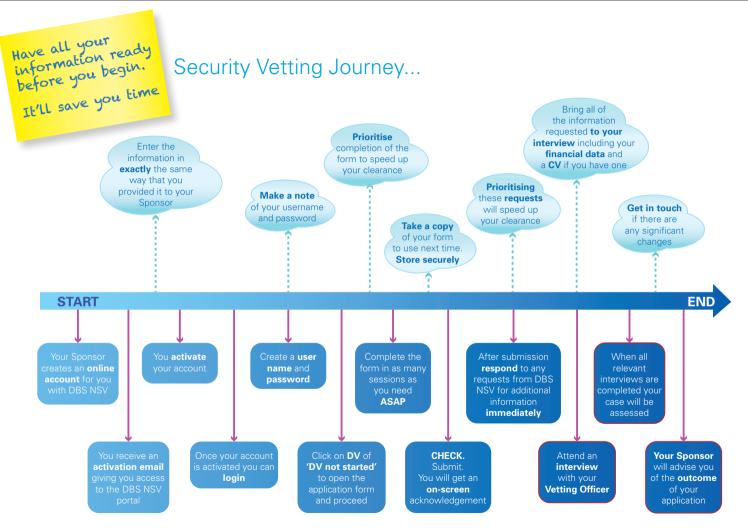
Since your role requires security clearance, you are required to participate in the National Security Vetting process and to respond to detailed questions and checks. The process may feel intrusive but we only ask for the information we need. The process has to be rigorous and thorough to guarantee all our safety. Please invest time now to provide a detailed up to date picture of yourself so we have all the information we need to process your application as quickly as possible.



We would recommend that you disclose all the information which you feel is relevant to your application. It is often the failure to disclose, not the information itself, that is detrimental to applications and which could lead to security clearance being refused. The most common cause of delay is incomplete or incorrect information.



We very much appreciate your co-operation.



Your vetting journey

Avoiding potential problems en route

Q: I haven't received an activation mail to give me access to the DBS NSV portal

A: Check your junk or spam folder first. If you still can't find the email then contact your Sponsor to check that the process has begun and a vetting account has been created for you.

Q: I can't access the system

A: You may be using an incompatible browser or operating system. See 'Getting started: What do you need to know about the system before you begin?'.

Q: I can't set up my account - it won't activate

A: You may be using an incompatible browser or operating system. See 'Getting Started: what do you need to know about the system before you begin?' Check that you have replicated the information that your Sponsor used to set up your account exactly.

Q: I've lost my username/password

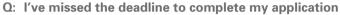
- · Click on the username reminder link on the portal log on page: 'Forgotten your username?'
- This will take you to a 'Recover username' screen
- Input your email address, your first name and your surname to identify yourself as a valid Subject. The email address you input must be the same email address to which your original activation email was sent.
 It must be entered in lower case only
- Once you have received the username reminder, click on the 'Forgotten your Password' link
- You should then copy and paste the username from the username reminder email into the username field and click Submit
- Once this is confirmed you will receive a password reset email containing a link allowing you to reset your password
- After clicking the link you will be required to enter the same details (in exactly the same way) as when you
 initially registered
- · Once confirmed you will be prompted to reset your password and will be able to access your account.

Your vetting journey

Avoiding potential problems en route

Q: What information do I need to fill in the application form?

A: See 'Preparation – what personal information should you have ready before you begin?' which lists the information you will need.



A: Contact your Sponsor as they will have to set up a new account for you.

Q: I haven't received any acknowledgement from DBS NSV to say my form has been received

A: The only acknowledgement you will receive will be the on screen message which appears when you submit your application.

Q: I'd like an update on the progress of my application

A: The majority of DV security clearances are targeted to be completed in 95 days. However this process may take longer if, for example, it is difficult to arrange interviews. You should contact your Sponsor with this or any other queries.





Preparation

What personal information should you have ready before you begin?



You are unlikely to be able to simply recall all the information requested to the level of detail required. If you have the following information to hand **before** you begin your application then you will be able to fill it in more quickly and accurately.

- · Your full name details including ALL middle names and any other names you have been known by
- Your place of birth town, county and country
- All previous UK or overseas addresses for the last 10 years including university, military and temporary accommodation.
- Your cohabiting Partners' details for the last 3 years including information about current and any previous surnames/ forenames; addresses; date of adoption (if applicable); date of death (if applicable); nationalities/citizenships
- Details of your current/previous marriage or civil partnership (date and place) and any divorce/separation/dissolution (date and court)
- Your parents' details including your birth mother and father, any step-parents, foster parents or legal guardians and any other Partner that any of them currently has, or has had within the last 3 years.
- · Information about any your brothers and sisters aged 18 and over (including any half or step siblings)
- Your Partner's parents details to the same level of detail as your own parents
- Details of any Co-Residents aged 18 or over who live with you e.g. lodgers; au-pairs; children who are at University during term time and return home during the holidays
- Details of any previous employment with HM Forces and HM Government/ government departments /agencies. Your
 current and past employment history for the previous 10 years (including dates of service and Supervisors' details) where
 you were not employed by Her Maiesty's Government or in the Armed Forces.
- A record of any Full Time education undertaken in the previous 5 years
- Details of 3 Character referees who must have collectively known you for 10 years
- · Any criminal convictions (spent and unspent)
- A complete record of your finances and those of your Partner including information about your properties; your savings
 and other assets; mortgages/secured loans linked to your properties; loans; credit cards; your monthly household
 income and outgoings

Preparation

What personal information should you have ready before you begin?

If there are any significant changes while your application is being processed tell us immediately.

Every aspect of your application is checked for accuracy and completeness – even the postcodes.

You would be surprised how many people input their date of birth incorrectly. So we really appreciate your help in completing the application as fully and as accurately as you possibly can first time round.

This will ensure we are able to process your application quickly and there are no delays because we have to come back to you to request missing or additional information.

If you know your personal circumstance are going to change soon, fill in the application as if this change has already taken place as it will save time e.g. if you are planning to move in with your Partner in the next 6 months, fill in your Partner's details and your Partner's Parents details.



If there is a significant change while your application is being processed e.g. change of Partner, new Supervisor, or new Co-Residents, please inform us as it will speed up the process.

You may find it easier to fill in a hardcopy of the form and then use this to enter the data into the online form. This hardcopy is for your personal use only to help you to complete the application form online. It should be stored or disposed of securely when you have finished using it.



A hardcopy of the form (Adobe Reader) can be downloaded from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/303407/20140325-Form_NSV002-U.pdf

Getting started

What do you need to know about the system before you begin?

We are in the process of updating our system. Here are some technical tips and hints to help you avoid any unnecessary problems:





Use the preferred browsers: Internet Explorer 8 (32bit) or Google Chrome. Safari, Firefox and some other browsers may work but they are not recommended. The use of an incompatible browser is one of the most common reasons why applicants can't log on to the system.



Use the preferred operating system: the online system was configured to use Windows XP. Although Android systems and Apple products may work with it, they are not as reliable as Windows XP and if you want to avoid problems with logging in, submitting and saving your data then Windows is recommended.



Save: We would advise you to regularly save the application as you are working on it. The application form will time-out if left idle for too long.





The Green Tick: A green tick will appear on the left hand navigation bar when a section is complete.



Check for Errors button: If you use the Check for Errors button it will highlight where there is missing data or formatting errors preventing completion.

Getting started

What do you need to know about the system before you begin?

Supervisors section

The HM Forces Employment and Government Employment sections are linked to the Supervisors section. They will not validate UNLESS the Supervisors section is fully populated.

National Insurance numbers

Your National Insurance number must be entered without spaces.

Hyphens, apostrophes, special characters are to be avoided in any of the data entry fields e.g enter 'O'Connor' as oconnor or Stoke-on-Trent as stokeontrent. Remember!
Complete the
Supervisor section
fully

Postcodes

Postcodes have to be entered and postcode look up software is provided on all the address fields in the application form. Remember to include the space in the postcode. Please use the software as the provision of the right postcodes will speed up the processing of your application.

Overlapping Dates

The system is designed to identify time gaps. In any of the sections where a date is required for a table, the dates given have to cover all the time periods e.g. From January to June has to be followed by From June to December. The 'From' date has to match the previous 'To' date exactly.

Additional Information

If you have any gaps in your employment history then please explain them in the 'Add additional information' box.

Welcome Security Clearance Questionnaire Vetting Statement Details Welcome Address Details Please take the time to complete this questionnaire carefully. If you make mistakes, it may delay your security clearance. Contact Details Marital Status It is especially important that names are spelt correctly and the dates of birth are accurate. Partner Details Browser Navigation buttons should not be used whilst completing this form. For example using the 'Back' button or the 'Backspace' key (except when amending mistakes in fields) will cause you to exit Parent Details the form and lose any unsaved data. Brothers and Sisters Co-Residents If you have any problems while you are completing this e-form, e.g. the information you require to enter is not in a drop-down list, please advise your sponsor who will contact the NSV to resolve the HM Forces Employment fssue. Government Employment For additional information please review the DBS NSV vetting information leaflet Employment Helpful Pointers Supervisors Education If a field has a red asterisk ", it is mandatory. You MUST complete it, either by typing the information or, where a drop-down list is provided, by selecting the appropriate answer. Character Referees If you haver your mouse pointer over a field for a second or so a tool-tip will appear for some fields containing relevant instructions. Health Declaration Criminal Convictions By clicking "Check for Errors" you can validate that the page has been successfully completed. You will see a green tick of appear when the page is complete without errors. Security Information Other Information A blue information icon shows that there is still work required to complete the section. Previous Clearances Any errors for the current section will appear in a list on the right hand side of the page. Clicking on an error in the list will take you to the question with the error in most cases. Financial Circumstances Declaration You can save the form at any time and return to it later by clicking "Save and Exit". When all sections are complete and without errors you will be able to submit the form by clicking the "Submit Form" button. You will not be able to edit the form after you have submitted it. Save and Exit

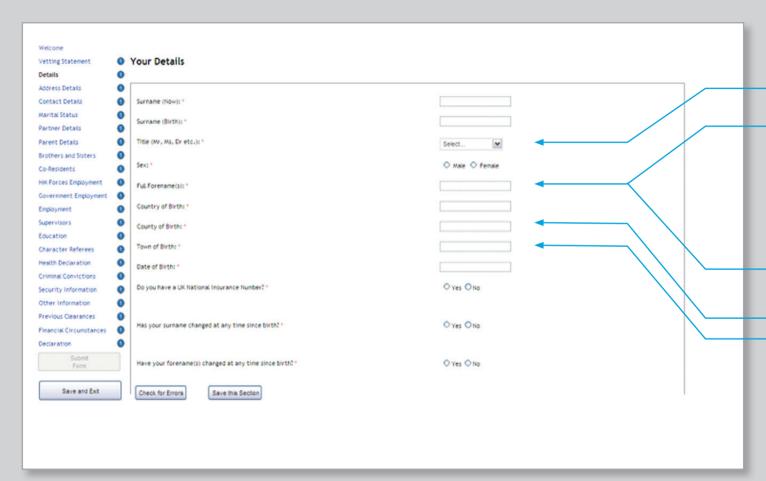
Working with the online system Some critical sections of the application form

It's worth reading this page thoroughly before you begin. Our guide follows the structure of the sections outlined above but you can complete the application form in any order you choose.



This is worth using - Check for Errors

If you use the Check for Errors button it will highlight where there is missing data or formatting errors preventing completion.



Working with the online system Your Details

- If you have an additional title which is not listed here, you can add it in under 'Add Additional Information'.
- Give your full forenames as they are recorded on your birth certificate including any middle names.





Place of Birth

Registration District = **County** of Birth on application form.

On some birth certificates this County title has been changed. Please provide the most up to date title.

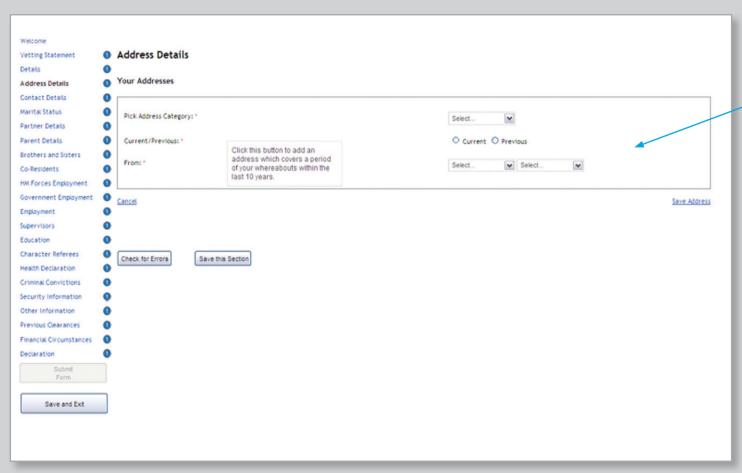
Registration Sub-district = Town of Birth on application form.

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	tionalities or citizenshi	ps				Select	~	
				⊕ _{Ye}	s ONo			
ase enter all past and pr	resent nationalities an	d citizenships. Dual natio	nality can be indicated	by entering anoth	er CURRENT nati	onaëty.		
	Former or Current	From (mm/yyyy)		To (mm/yyyy)			Country	
Select	Select	Select	Select	Select	Select	V		Delete
d Previous Nationality / i British naturalised, give rtificate Number: rtificate Date: non-UK National, date of	number & date of cert	tificate: (Please note tha	t this is not a birth cert	ificate number)	4			
		ick here if you would lik						

Working with the online system Details

- If you have held a British passport from birth then the date you became a British National is your date of birth.
- If you are unsure whether you have any other nationalities or citizenships follow this (Adobe Reader) link to the Border Agency: https://www.gov.uk/dual-citizenship
- If you do have a Certificate and a number please enter it here (not everyone does).
- Please add in any information that you think might be relevant here
 it will speed up the processing of your application.



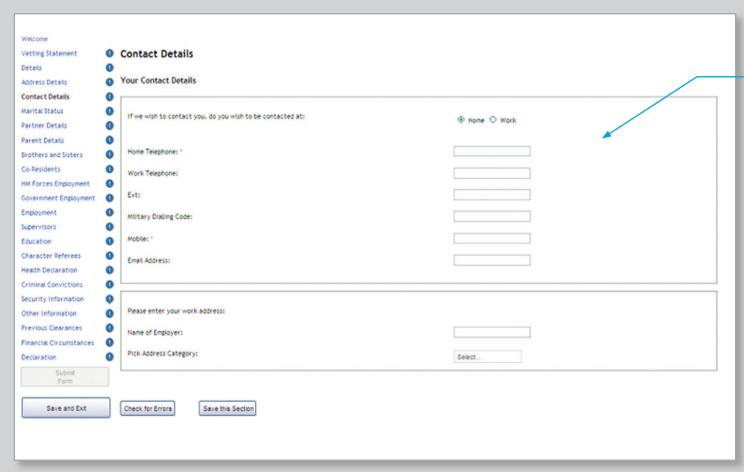


Working with the online system Address details

Please utilise the **postcode finder** to help you with the postcodes. Every single address throughout the application form is checked and your application may be rejected if this information is incomplete or inaccurate.



After you have input each address remember to click on the **'Save Address'** button.



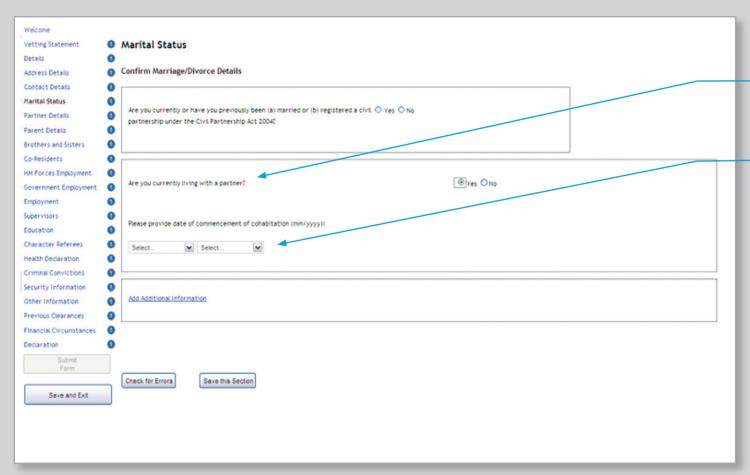
Working with the online system Contact details

Please provide postal addresses and all your email contacts as well as your telephone contact details so we can get in touch with you as quickly as possible if we need to.

We may have to send you hardcopy application forms or request you to provide confidential information. You may prefer not to discuss this information openly over the telephone.

We can also arrange to interview you at a location near to your work instead of visiting you at home and this will also speed up the process.

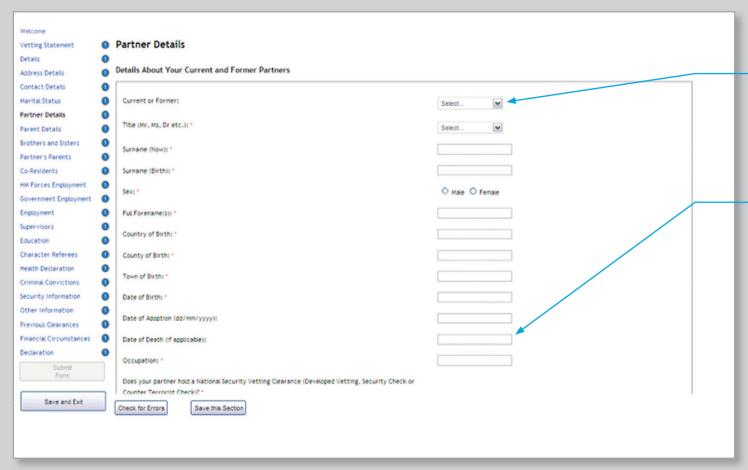
For MOD Subjects using the **Dii network** please be aware that the system will **not** accept the short version of your email address. Only email addresses which include an **@** symbol are valid.



Working with the online system Marital status details

 The term Partner applies both to your spouse and/or to someone with whom you are living and have a committed relationship.

This is the date when you first started to live together.



Working with the online system Partner details 1

 You will be asked to provide the same level of personal detail about your current and/or any former Partners (living with/committed relationship) over the previous three years as you do about yourself.

If you do not have access to all the dates/information you need about former Partners' there is a check box you can use to indicate this.

Date of Death (if applicable): if you don't know the exact date you can provide an approximate date here if it helps e.g if your Partner/former Partner died in the Summer of 2010, then you can give 1st July 2010 as the date of death.

Continued...

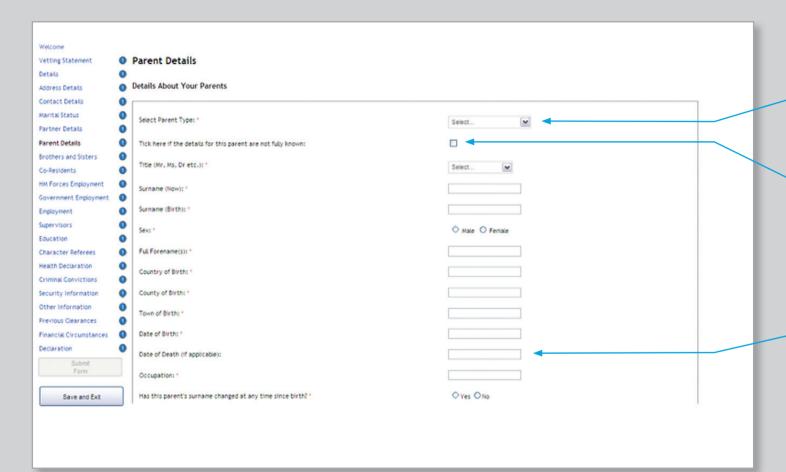
If British naturalised, give number & date of certificate. (Please note that this is not their birth certificate number	0
Certificate Number:	
Certificate Date:	
If non-UK National, date of taking up permanent residence in UK:	
Please provide address details for this partner/former partner which cover the past five years, including periods of	of no fixed abode and periods abroad.
Use the 'Add Address' button to add past addresses to the list.	
Is your partner's current permanent address the same as your own?	/ /
O yes O No	/ / /
	/ / /
Category From To Address Summary	/ / /
No Addresses Added	
Add New Address	
	/
Add Additional Information	
Check for Errors Save this Section	

Working with the online system Partner details 2

Partner's current address:

Even if your Partner has died in the last five years, for National Security Vetting purposes we still need their last known residential address.

If you don't have the last known residential address then please tell us in the 'Add Additional Information' section.



Working with the online system Parent details 1

- You are asked to provide details about ALL your Parents: Natural (birth) Parents, Adoptive Parents, Foster Parents, Step-Parents and any Legal Guardians. We do appreciate this can be a difficult section as you must include information about your Parents' Partners i.e. if your Parent has remarried or is living with someone you may not think of them as a Parent but we still need their details.
- Tick here if details for this Parent are not known: we understand that you may not know all this information for some parents. e.g if you were adopted at birth you may not have any information about your birth Parents. Try to find out and tell us as much as you can. Let us know in the 'Add Additional Information' section why some details are missing.
- Date of Death (if applicable): if you don't know the exact date you can provide an approximate date here if it helps e.g. if your Parent died in the Autumn of 1988, then you can give 1st October 1988 as the date of death.

Continued...

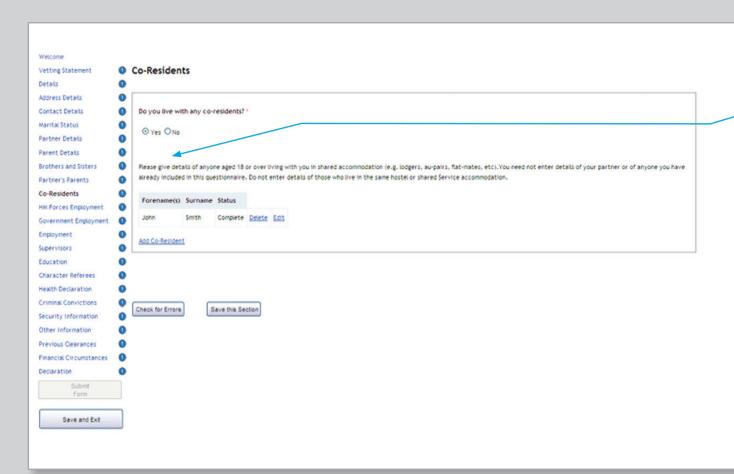
You will also have to provide this information for your Partner's Parents

Present nationality: * Does this parent have any other nationalities or citizenships (former or current)? *	○Yes ○No
If British naturalised, give number & date of certificate. (Please note that this is not their birth cert	ificate number)
Certificate Number: Certificate Date:	
If non-UK National, date of taking up permanent residence in UK:	
Parent's Current Address Pick Address Category:	Select
From:	Select
Add Additional Information	
Check for Errors Save this Section	Save Parent

Working with the online system Parent details 2

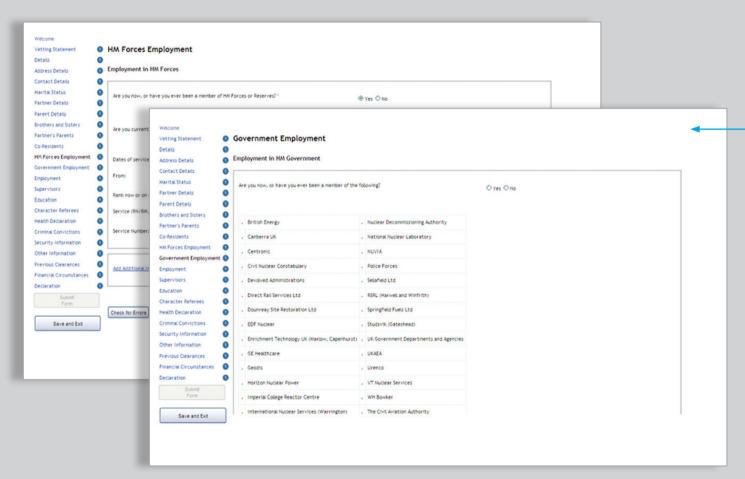
 Parents current address: even if your parent has died, for National Security Vetting purposes we still need their last known residential address if you have it.

 If you don't have the last known residential address then please tell us in the 'Add Additional Information' section.



Working with the online system Co-Residents

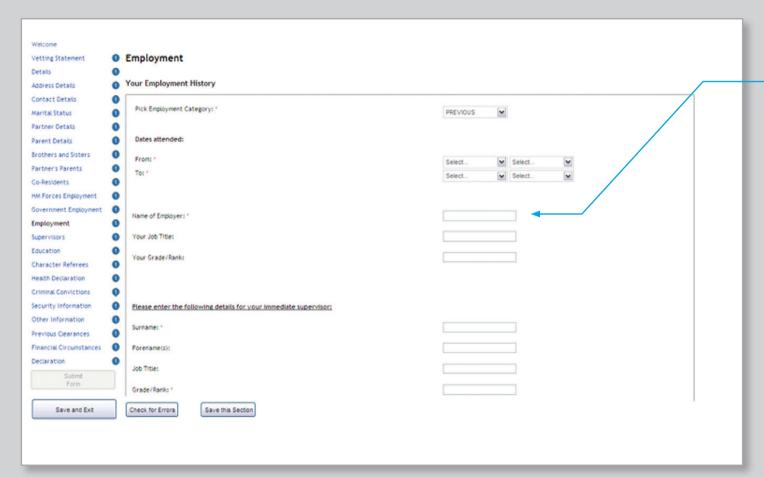
 Remember to include any children over 18 e.g. children who are currently at University and who return home in the holidays.



Working with the online system HM Forces and Government Employment details

These two sections are linked to the Supervisors section later in this guide. You will not get a 'green tick' and be able to complete these sections UNLESS the Supervisors section is fully populated and the dates provided match.



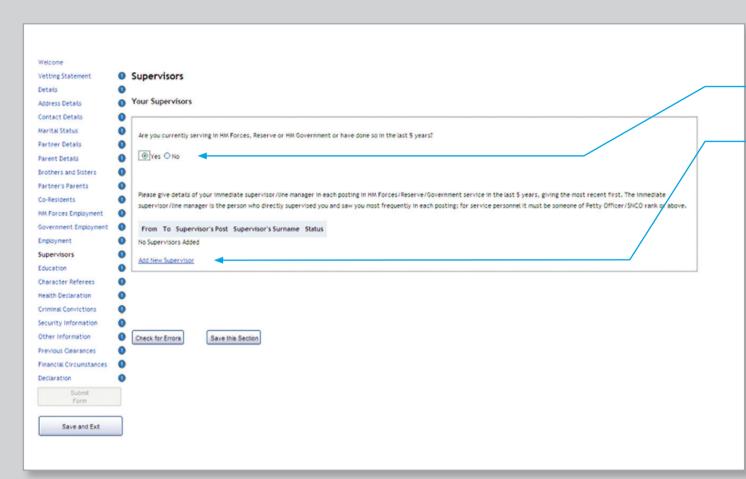


Working with the online system Employment history

 Full CURRENT details have to be provided including current address and telephone numbers. This is because as part of the National Security Vetting process we may contact your Supervisor(s) to ask about you.

If you worked through an agency, we will need the name of the person that you reported to within your place of work as well as the agency details.

If you are a Contractor you will have to provide employment information for the previous 10 years.



Working with the online system Supervisor details

 Remember this section must be fully completed for the HM Forces Employment and Government Employment section to get a 'green tick'.



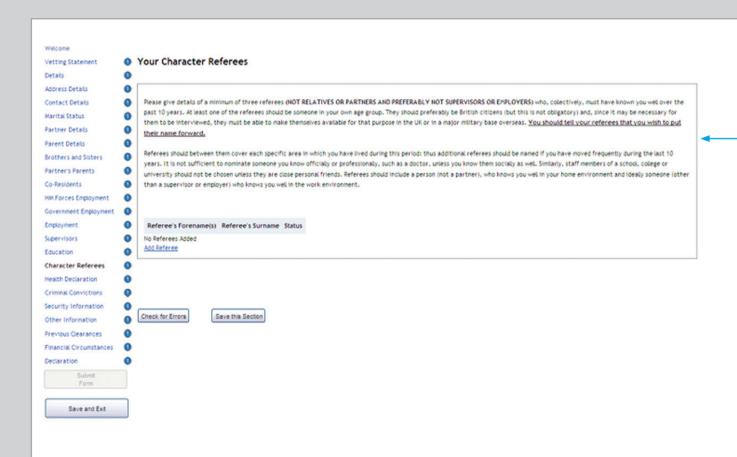
 Full CURRENT details have to be provided including current address and telephone numbers. This is because as part of the National Security Vetting process we may contact your Supervisor(s) to ask about you.

Please provide your Supervisors full name including their forenames (not their nickname) as it will help us to locate them much more quickly.

If you worked through an agency, we will need the name of the person that you reported to within your place of work as well as the agency details. If you are a Contractor you will have to provide employment information for the previous 10 years.

Beware overlapping dates - the dates given have to cover all the time periods The 'From' date has to match the previous 'To' date exactly. e.g. From January to June has to be followed by From June to December.

If you have any gaps in your employment history then please explain these in the 'Add additional information' box.



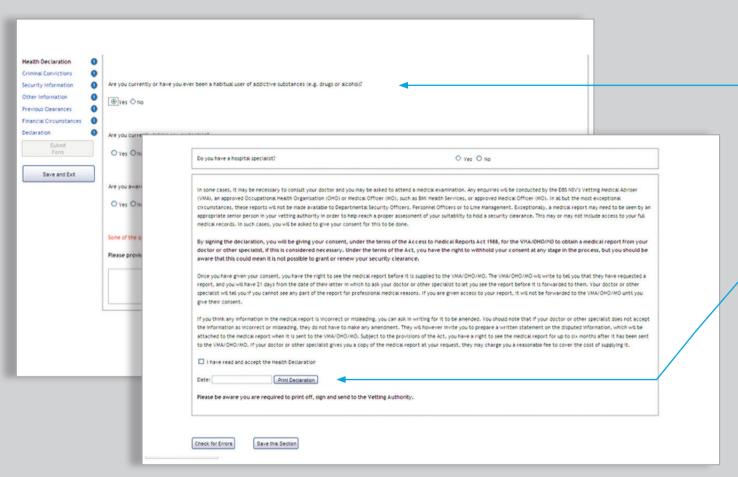
Working with the online system Character Referees

We are looking for character referees who know you well, not in an official or professional capacity. For example you could nominate your GP but only if they know you personally as well. Your referees could be your peers. Individually they do not have to have known you for a continuous period of 10 years but the people you nominate collectively will have to cover a 10 year period. e.g. you may nominate 3 people, one who knew you for the first 4 years, another for 2 years and another for the remaining 4 years.

Your Partner's relatives cannot act as referees.

We will need to contact your character referees to arrange to interview them. Please check with them where they prefer to be interviewed (home or work) and provide their full names including their forenames, current addresses, **mobile and landline** telephone numbers and email addresses if you have them. The more information we have the sooner we will be able to contact them.

Full and accurate contact details are essential and will speed up the process



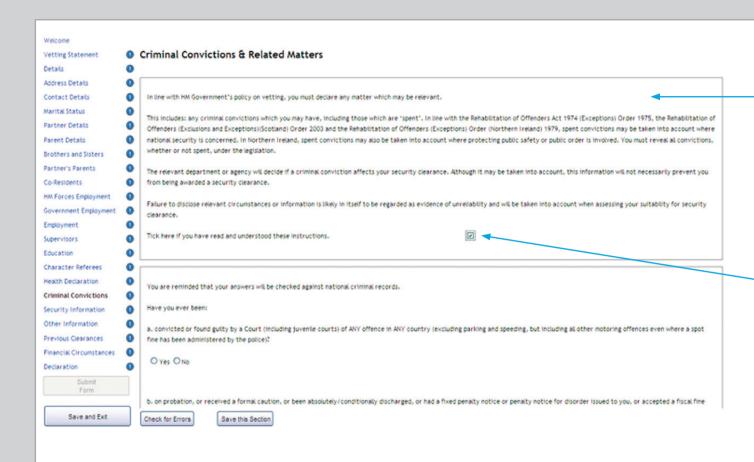
Working with the online system Health Declaration

Some of the questions you may have answered 'Yes' to may mean you have to submit a signed Medical Declaration to National Security Vetting.

If you are required for legal reasons to do so, the quickest and easiest way is to:

- Print off a hardcopy of the form and sign it
 - Scan the hardcopy
- Attach a softcopy of the form to an email and send it to National Security Vetting with your full details: DBS-NSV-CustomerEnquiries@mod.uk

OR post the signed hardcopy of the form to: **Defence Business Services National Security Vetting (DBS NSV)** Building 107, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO10 4AS



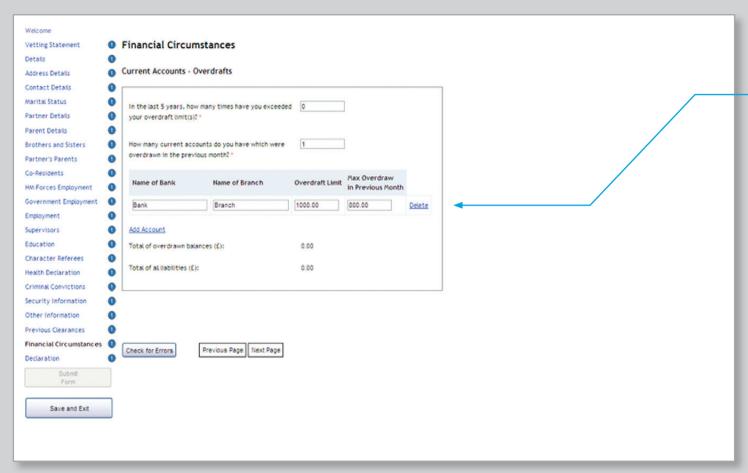
Working with the online system Criminal convictions

You **must declare** all Criminal Convictions both Spent and Unspent (except parking and speeding offences) in any country no matter how long ago they were and how trivial you may think they are. It is often the failure to disclose, not the information itself, that is detrimental to applications and which could lead to security clearance being refused.

Your responses will be checked against the National Criminal Records Database which is why they need to be 100% accurate. If your details don't match the Database this will delay your clearance.

Tick to confirm you have read and understood these instructions.

Failure to disclose all relevant information can delay your clearance application



Working with the online system Current Accounts - Overdrafts

Please provide details in this table about any current account(s) which were overdrawn in the last month NOT about your overdrafts in the previous five years.

NSV Contacts – and other useful links

Guidance for Sponsors and Subjects is available at: https://www.gov.uk/security-vetting-and-clearance#overview

The application forms required for clearance are available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-security-vetting#forms

Information about the technical requirements is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-security-vetting#information

Updates on the National Security Vetting process are available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-security-vetting#publications

If your Subject already has clearance details on how to transfer it are available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transfer-request-form





DBS-NSV Enquiry Centre

Email: DBS-NSV-CustomerEnquiries@mod.uk

Telephone: 01904 66 2644 (Mil: 94777 2644).

Defence Business Services National Security Vetting (DBS NSV)

Building 107, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO10 4AS