

**Contractor - technician
(access to patients)**

Vincent is employed through an external contractor as a technician working closely with the estates team at Any-Town NHS Foundation Trust.

His role involves repairing and maintaining systems that hospitals rely on such as, medical gas supplies, lifts, alarms, heating and refrigeration which can be located anywhere within the hospital site, including ward areas where patients are located.

Eligibility

The type of work contractors may be required to undertake on NHS premises can be far reaching and not all positions will be eligible for a DBS check. It is essential that employing organisations clearly stipulate the type and level of checks required in any contract arrangements with third party staffing providers.

In this case, Vincent is repairing and maintaining systems to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and patients delivering and receiving health services. Given that he may be required to carry out work on ward areas where patients are located, the position should be considered against eligibility for a standard check.

If these duties were more concerned with installing and maintaining systems in other parts of the hospital site such as, office or public access areas where there is limited (incidental) or no contact with patients, then the position would not be eligible for a standard or enhanced DBS check. Employers may, however, wish to consider whether the roles and responsibilities of the work being undertaken and access to patients would be eligible for a **basic disclosure**. The same consideration would equally apply to engineers, electricians, plumbers and window cleaners etc., contracted to provide services on an NHS site.