

This document provides details of periods after which convictions and conditional cautions are spent (or not) in the different jurisdictions in the UK.

England & Wales:

How long will it take before my caution or conviction becomes spent?

The rehabilitation period (the length of time before a caution or conviction becomes spent) is determined by the type of disposal administered or the length of the sentence imposed. It is calculated from the date of conviction or the date the caution is administered. The rehabilitation periods are shown in the table below.

Sentence/disposal	Rehabilitation period for adults (18 or over at the time of conviction or the time the disposal is administered)	Rehabilitation period for young people (under 18 at the time of conviction or the time the disposal is administered)
Imprisonment or detention in a young offender institution for over 30 months (2 ½ years)	Never spent	Never spent
Imprisonment or detention in a young offender institution over 6 months but not exceeding 30 months (2 ½ years)	10 years	5 years
Imprisonment up to 6 months	7 years	3 ½ years
Fine	5 years	2 ½ years
Community Sentence	5 years	2 ½ years
Conditional discharge	The period of the order, or a minimum of 12 months (whichever is longer)	The period of the order, or a minimum of 12 months (whichever is longer)
Absolute Discharge	6 months	6 months
Conditional Caution	3 months	3 months
Simple Caution, Reprimand, Final Warning	Spent immediately	Spent immediately
<i>Some sentences carry variable rehabilitation periods. The main ones are as follows:</i>		
Compensation Order	On the discharge of the order (i.e. when it is paid in full)	On the discharge of the order (i.e. when it is paid in full)
Supervision Order	N/A	The period of the order, or a minimum of 12 months (whichever is longer)
Bind Over	The period of the order, or a minimum of 12 months (whichever is longer)	The period of the order, or a minimum of 12 months (whichever is longer)
Attendance Centre Order	A period ending one year after the order expires	A period ending one year after the order expires
Hospital Order	Five years, or a period ending two years after the order expires (whichever is longer)	Five years, or a period ending two years after the order expires (whichever is longer)

Northern Ireland:

Sentence	Rehabilitation period
Over 30 months in prison	never spent
Over six months but less than 30 months in prison	ten years (five years if convicted and person is under 18)
Less than six months in prison	seven years (three and a half years if person is under 18 when convicted)
Fine or community service order	five years (two and a half years if person is under 18 when convicted)
Probation	for the period of the order or one year whichever is longer
Detention in a place directed by Minister of Justice/SofS under Article 45 of CJ (Children) (NI) Order 1998	six months or less – three years over six months but less than 30 months – five years
Attendance Centre Orders, remand home orders, training school orders, juvenile justice centre orders	one year after order expires
Care and supervision orders under Children and Young Persons' Act (NI) 1998	date the order ceases or one year, whichever is longer

Sentence	Rehabilitation period
Hospital orders under Mental Health Act (NI) 1961 or Mental Health (NI) Order 1986	five years from date of conviction or two years after the order expires, whichever is longer
Disqualification and other orders imposing disability, prohibition or other penalty	date the order ceases
Absolute discharge	six months
Any other sentence for which the Order does not specify a specific period	five years (two and half years if under 18 when convicted)

Scotland:**Rehabilitation Periods - Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

Sentence	Over 18's	Under 18's
Prison or youth custody >2.5 years (immediate or suspended)	Never Spent	Never Spent
Order for Lifelong Restriction	Never Spent	Never Spent
Prison or Youth Custody >6 months but <2.5 years (immediate or suspended)	10 years	5 years
Dismissal from HM Forces (with disgrace)	10 years	5 years
Prison or Youth Custody <6 months (immediate or suspended)	7 years	3.5 years
Military custodial order >6 months detention	7 years	3.5 years
Dismissal from HM Forces	7 years	3.5 years
Action plan order	5 years	2.5 years
Activity Requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Admonished / Admonition	5 years	2.5 years
Alcohol Treatment Requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Attendance Centre Requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Combination Order (one or more orders)	5 years	2.5 years
Community Order (or a requirement of)	5 years	2.5 years
Community Punishment Order	5 years	2.5 years
Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Order	5 years	2.5 years
Community Reparation order or Reparation order	5 years	2.5 years

Community Resolution Order	5 years	2.5 years
Community Service Order/Community Payback Order	5 years	2.5 years
Compensation Order	5 years	2.5 years
Curfew Requirement (Restriction of Liberty)	5 years	2.5 years
Drug Rehabilitation Requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Drug Treatment and Testing Order	5 years	2.5 years
Drugs confiscation order	5 years	2.5 years
Exclusion Requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Fines / Estreat / Back duty	5 years	2.5 years
Mental health treatment requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Military detention <6 months	5 years	2.5 years
Programmes requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Prohibited activity requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Rehabilitation order	5 years	2.5 years
Residence requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Restitution order	5 years	2.5 years
Restriction of Liberty Order	5 years	2.5 years
Supervised attendance order	5 years	2.5 years
Unpaid work requirement	5 years	2.5 years
Youth Rehabilitation Order	5 years	2.5 years
Absolute discharge	6 months	6 months
No sentence passed	6 months	6 months

Borstal (abolished in 1983)	7 years	7 years
Detention centres (abolished in 1988)	3 years	3 years
Community rehabilitation Order	5 years	2.5 years
Probation order	5 years	2.5 years
Approved school order	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Bind over/Bound over (Not English breach of peace)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Community home programme (Supervision requirement)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Conditional discharge	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Custody in remand home	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Fit person order	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Caution	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Secure training & attendance centre order	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Supervision order	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Supervision requirement (NOT Section 44 (1) (A or B))	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)

Youth conference order (Non Military)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)	1 year (or until the order expires – whichever is longer)
Hospital order	5 years (or 2 years after the order expires – whichever is longer)	5 years (or 2 years after the order expires – whichever is longer)
Compulsion order	5 years (or 2 years after the order expires – whichever is longer)	5 years (or 2 years after the order expires – whichever is longer)
Combined compulsion and Restriction order	5 years (or 2 years after the order expires – whichever is longer)	5 years (or 2 years after the order expires – whichever is longer)
Anti-Social Behaviour Order	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Disability or Prohibition	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Disqualified Driver	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Football Banning Order	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Order imposing a Disqualification	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Referral Order	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Restraining Order (if no specified length, treat as incomplete)	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
SOPO/SHPO/SORO (five years minimum)	Until the order expires	Until the order expires
Restriction order	3 months	3 months
Conditional Caution (Youth	3 months	3 months
Detention and training order > 6 months	5 years	1 year after the order expires
Residential training order > 6 months	5 years (for those over 15 years old)	1 year after the order expires (for those under 15 years old)
Residential training order < 6 months	3.5 years (for those over 15 years old)	1 year after the order expires (for those under 15 years old)