

**Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**  
**Time Limit in Which Convictions are “Spent”**

Absolute discharge	Six months*
Probation order, conditional discharge, bind over	One year or the length of the order, whichever is longer
Attendance centre order	One year after the end of the order
An order for detention in a detention centre	Three years
A sentence for detention for up to six months under s.53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 or s.57 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937	Three years
A custodial order under Schedule 5A to the Army Act 1955 or the Air Force Act 1955, or under Schedule 4A to the Naval Discipline Act 1957 where the maximum period of detention is six months or less	Three years
A fine, community service or curfew order	Five years*
Any sentence of detention following services disciplinary proceedings	Five years
A sentence of between six months and two and a half years under s.53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 or the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937	Five years
A hospital order	Five years or two years after the end of the order, whichever is the longer
Borstal training	Seven years
A custodial order under Schedule 5A to the Army Act 1955 or the Air Force Act 1955, or under Schedule 4A to the Naval Discipline Act 1957 where the maximum period of detention is more than six months	Seven years
A sentence of dismissal from Her Majesty’s Service	Seven years
A sentence of up to six months imprisonment, detention in a young offenders institution or youth custody	Seven years*
A sentence of cashiering, discharge with ignominy or dismissal with disgrace from Her Majesty’s Service	Ten years
A sentence of between six months and two and a half years imprisonment (including a suspended sentence), detention in a young offender’s institution, youth custody or corrective training	Ten years*
Disqualification from driving	The end of the disqualification
Over two and a half years imprisonment	Never

\* Half this time if aged under 18 years at time of conviction