

Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service

Your local county voluntary council

4. Volunteers

4.17 The Independent Safeguarding Authority



Vetting and Barring Scheme – latest news

The ISA registration stage of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) has been halted to allow the Government to conduct a remodelling of the scheme back to 'proportionate, common sense levels'. As a result of this announcement, the ISA registration phase will not launch on 26 July 2010.

The Home Secretary Theresa May said that the safety of children and vulnerable adults is of 'paramount importance to the new government', but that a measured approach is vital. She continued: 'We've listened to the criticisms and will respond with a scheme that has been fundamentally remodelled. Vulnerable groups must be properly protected in a way that is proportionate and sensible. This redrawing of the VBS will ensure this happens'.

Existing arrangements under the Scheme, which will continue, include:

- Since January 2009, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been making independent barring decisions. It will continue to maintain two constantly updated lists, one for those barred from working with children, the other for those barred from working with vulnerable adults.

- Existing requirements concerning CRB checks will remain in place, and those entitled to such checks can continue to apply for them.
- Employers are still legally obliged to refer information to the ISA if they have moved or removed an individual because they have harmed or there is a risk of harm to a member of a vulnerable group.

The scope of the remodelling process will be co-ordinated by the Home Office in partnership with Department of Health and Department of Education and is currently being finalised.

The two current consultations, Continuing need for a controlled activity category in the Vetting and Barring Scheme and Statutory requirements and advice, for CRB disclosures for safeguarding purposes, on workers already registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority remain live with the closing date of 9th July:
www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

It is not clear yet how the Government's remodelling of the Vetting and Barring Scheme will impact upon the future of ISA registration.

WCVA is aware that the announcement of a remodelling of the Vetting and Barring Scheme will require organisations to rethink their policies and procedures. WCVA's CRU is planning a programme of new advice and guidance to help with the introduction of the new application form and understanding any changes arising from the scaling down of the Vetting and barring Scheme as a result of the Government review.

Further information

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Independent Safeguarding Authority

www.isa.gov.org.uk

Criminal Records Bureau

www.crb.gov.uk

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