

## Government Vetting and Barring Scheme Review - February 2011

The Vetting & Barring Scheme Review proposes 14 recommendations, within which are the following headlines:

- The Registration Scheme should be scrapped - this refers to the ISA scheme
- A state body should continue to provide a barring function to assist employers when determining suitability of those working (paid or unpaid) with vulnerable groups
- The CRB and ISA should merge into a single Non-Departmental Public Body or Agency
- Barring should continue to apply to both paid and unpaid roles
- The new barring regime should cover only those who may have regular or close contact with vulnerable groups
- CRB Disclosures should continue to be available for employing/voluntary organisations so they can make informed recruitment/selection decisions but should be revised to become portable

The Report includes the following implementation timetable:

Feb 2011 - Introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Bill

November 2011 - Royal Assent for the Bill (subject to Parliament)

Within 2012:

- Commencement of the relevant provisions in the Bill
- Creation of the new barring regime
- Introduction of continuous criminal records updating

Within 2013:

- New disclosure and vetting service begins

Should you wish to read the full Report, this can be obtained from

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/vetting-barring-scheme/>

The CRB Review (phase 1) proposes 10 summary recommendations, within which are the following headlines:

- Eligibility for CRB checks is scaled back to focus on those working unsupervised or in regular close contact with vulnerable groups
- CRB checks should be portable (transferable) between jobs and activities
- Introduction of an online system for employers to check for updated information held on an applicant
- Change of process so the CRB Disclosure is issued direct to the individual applicant only
- Introduction of filters to remove old and minor conviction information from CRB checks

Within the Report it is apparent that the duty for deciding whether a role is eligible for a CRB check should rest with the employer or voluntary body "as they are best placed to ensure that the application of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and associated data protection legislation is adhered to". (pg 43)

Should you wish to read the full Report, this can be obtained from

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/criminal-records-review-phase1/>

CSAS Guidance in light of Review Reports:

Upon our initial reading of these Review Reports, the approach outlined is consistent with our current practices in the Church concerning determining which roles should be subject to CRB Disclosures.

**At this point, our Safer Recruitment policies and procedures remain unchanged and so we maintain our existing practice until further notice.** As the work continues within Government concerning the proposed Review recommendations, we will of course keep you informed of any developments and latest information as it is received.