

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Safer Recruitment changes are on the way

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PoFA—what is it and where did it come from?

The former Government proposed a new Safer Recruitment regime called "Vetting & Barring" in response to the inquiry that followed the tragic Soham murders. When the current Government were elected to office they halted the introduction of the Vetting scheme and tasked Sunita Mason with reviewing the criminal records arrangements. Following Sunita Mason reporting her findings the Government passed new legislation entitled the Protection of Freedoms Act or PoFA.

The 1st phase of changes under PoFA came into effect in September 2012 and changed eligibility criteria for Disclosures (also known as DBS or CRB checks). This also introduced different tiers of Enhanced Disclosure product depending on the nature of the role.

The 2nd phase of PoFA has been awaited and the Government have now announced a go-live date for Phase 2 of 17th June 2013.

What is "Phase 2" of the Protection of Freedoms Act?

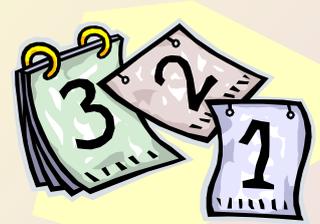
There are 2 key changes effected under Phase 2:

1. The Disclosure Certificate will only be sent to the applicant and a copy of the Certificate will no longer be sent to the Registered Body or Employer. This is known as "Single Certificate" or "Applicant Only Certificate".
2. A new Online Updating Service is launched which enables individuals to create an account, subscribe on an annual basis and register their Single Certificate thereby enabling that Disclosure to be used by numerous voluntary organisations or employers for similar roles working with the same workforce (namely Children or Adults) and require the same level of Disclosure i.e. Enhanced. For volunteers there is no subscription fee. For employees the annual fee is £13.



When is Phase 2 happening?

These changes become effective from 17th June 2013. This means there is a very short lead-in time for organisations to adjust their policies and practice but this date has been determined by Government. CSAS is doing its utmost to update national policy; amend relevant forms and provide supplementary guidance to help communicate the change.



Countdown to 17/6/2013

