

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

Welcome to the 19th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the regular Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. Should you have any comments—please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

COALITION GOVERNMENT RELEASES REPORTS FOLLOWING REVIEW OF CRB AND VETTING & BARRING SCHEME

Last month the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, announced the Freedoms Bill. Within this Bill are proposals which have arisen as a result of the recent Government Reviews of CRB and the Vetting & Barring Scheme.

What are the key headlines arising from the Vetting & Barring review?

The Report proposes 14 recommendations, within which are the following headlines:

- The Vetting & Barring Registration Scheme should be scrapped
- 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 and be maintained by a state body
- 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 Government hope to obtain Royal Assent for the Bill in November this year. It is intended that during 2012 the new barring scheme will be created and changes reflected in the CRB Review report will also be introduced during 2012 and 2013.

What are the key headlines as a result of the CRB review?

The CRB Review Report proposes 10 summary recommendations. This report reflects the 1st phase review of the CRB and a 2nd stage is due to commence in due course. The Report released last month contains the following:

- Eligibility for CRB checks is scaled back to focus on those working unsupervised or in regular close contact with vulnerable groups. (Please note further work on this has yet to be completed by Government).
- 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 continue to rest with the employer or voluntary body.

Does this mean that Church volunteers will no longer need to be CRB checked?

NO. The approach of proportionate use of CRB checks and what roles should be subject to CRB Disclosures is consistent to the National Safer Recruitment policies of the Catholic Church of England & Wales. It is important to differentiate between the types of roles that the Government anticipate will be subject to the new BARRING SCHEME as opposed to the nature of roles for whom CRB Disclosures will continue to be appropriate. ***Please be mindful of Press reports which, in some instances since mid-February, have misreported the Reviews' content.***

So what has changed?

Currently nothing has changed to our existing Safer Recruitment & Selection practices. The new arrangements relating to CRB Disclosures and the new Barring arrangements (as outlined in the Reports) will not be in place until 2012 at the earliest. With the release of the Vetting & Barring review findings however the cessation of the Registration scheme (that arose from the Bichard Inquiry) is now permanent.

Scottish Vetting & Barring Scheme launches

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Whilst the Coalition Government have seemingly waved farewell to the notion of a Vetting & Barring Registration Scheme in England & Wales, the Scottish equivalent Scheme launched on 28th February 2011.

Should you require more detail please go to the web page

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation



Notification of status changes in respect of Religious Orders

You are no doubt aware that every CRB application submitted through CSAS Registered Body (via Diocesan Safeguarding teams and the Conference of Religious Counter-Signatories office) is recorded on the secure National CRB Database by authorised Counter-Signatories and their Support staff.

For those Orders who submit the CRB applications via the CoR Counter-Signatories office, please ensure that you notify CSAS of circumstances when a person no longer is in post for example a Care Home staff member who leaves appointment or a Religious Sister or Brother who sadly passes away. CSAS can then ensure that the appropriate record is updated to reflect that the person is no longer in post. In such circumstances please email Sally Robinson of CSAS (email address is on the front page of this newsletter) confirming the date of birth and name of the individual; the date they left appointment (approximate date is also acceptable) and the reason they no longer are in post.

This information will ensure that the Database is accurate and is helpful in situations where historical concerns are brought to the attention of the Safeguarding teams. Your anticipated assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Forthcoming Safer Recruitment Awareness training specifically for Religious



CSAS have scheduled a training session specifically for Religious Safeguarding Coordinators; Representatives and Congregation Leaders. The session will also be valuable for those managing services and centres run by Congregations i.e. Care Home Managers; Retreat Centre Managers.

This session will provide an understanding of why the Catholic Church uses CRB Disclosures; the key stages of Safer Recruitment; CRB eligibility and the forms required up to and including completion of the CRB Application form.

The session is due to take place on Thursday 5th May 2011 at a location to be determined. (A venue cannot currently be confirmed until CSAS has some idea of the level of interest in this event). The training will be delivered by Adrian Child (Director of CSAS) and Sally Robinson. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sally Robinson, preferably by email, without delay. If numbers do have to be restricted, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

A Special Edition “Safeguarding Matters” is due out in May 2011

Coming Soon!!