

Vetting & Barring – Launch of the first phase 12 October 2009

You may have heard that the first phase of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) will launch on 12 October 2009. We hope that the following information will help you to ensure that you are fully prepared and have a thorough understanding of how this may affect you.

Launch – 12 October 2009

From 12 October 2009, there will be some small changes to the way that you apply for CRB checks. This is the first phase of VBS and will provide increased safeguards that will further enhance the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The next phase, which will allow individuals to start applying for ISA-registration, will be introduced next year on 26 July 2010.

So what exactly will change on 12 October?

- The three current barred lists (POCA, POVA and List 99) will be replaced by two new barred lists administered by the ISA, the 'Children's List' and the 'Vulnerable Adults' List'.
- Employers, social services and professional regulators will have a duty to refer information about individuals who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults to the ISA. This will ensure that any potential threats to vulnerable groups can be identified and dealt with effectively.
- There will be criminal penalties introduced for barred individuals who seek to undertake work with vulnerable groups and for any employers who knowingly take them on.
- The eligibility criteria for Enhanced CRB checks will be extended to include anyone working in a regulated activity with a Regulated Activity Provider.
- The current POVA First service will be renamed 'ISA Adult First' service to reflect the replacement of the POVA list.

So what do the changes on 12 October mean for you?

- You can continue to use the current application form. There will be a new application form from July 2010 which will incorporate applications for ISA-registration.
- Standard CRB checks will no longer be available for those working with children or vulnerable adults. From this date, a Standard CRB check, will only reveal information held on PNC and will no longer reveal information from the three current lists or the new barred lists.
- Anyone who applies to work in a regulated activity under the new eligibility criteria should apply for an Enhanced CRB check.
- If you request a check of the barred lists with an Enhanced CRB, the Enhanced certificate will show the results of a check of the two new barred lists.
- POVA First will change its name to the 'ISA Adult First' service, but it will offer you the same service as before.

Standard CRB checks

As mentioned before, from 12 October, there will be changes to Standard CRB checks. Standard CRB checks will no longer be available for those working with children or vulnerable adults. A Standard check will only reveal information held on the PNC and will no longer provide information from the Government lists – POCA, POVA, List 99.

If you still need a check of the current lists with a Standard CRB check, you will need to submit these applications no later than 2 October 2009, to give the CRB the opportunity to process them in time. Any checks that are not fully processed by 12 October 2009 will not include any information from the old or new barred lists and you may have to submit a further application for an Enhanced check and pay the additional fee for processing that application.

Any application received for a Standard CRB check requesting a check of the current barred lists received on or after the 12 October 2009 will be returned to the Countersignatory, unprocessed. A new

application for an Enhanced CRB check would need to be submitted if the applicant is entitled to a check against the new lists under the extended eligibility criteria.

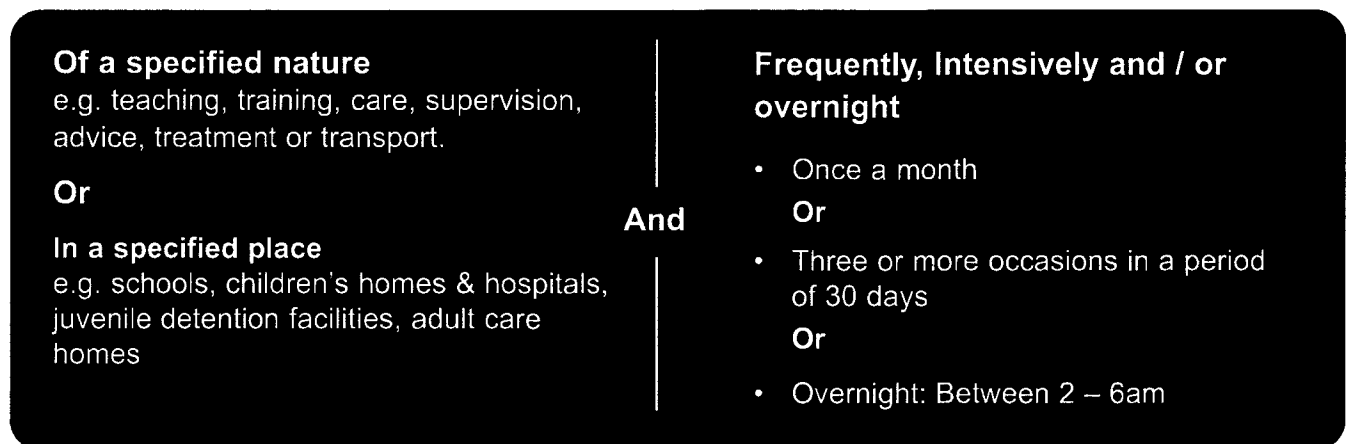
Enhanced CRB checks

So, how will you be able to determine if an activity is considered as regulated activity under the extended criteria and therefore if the applicant is eligible for an Enhanced CRB check?

The following diagram illustrates the principals of regulated activity and considerations that a customer should assess in relation to the post applied for:

Regulated Activities

Involve contact with children or vulnerable adults and are:



You can find more information in the VBS Guidance which will be available to view or download from the CRB website shortly. A section of the guidance 'Coverage of the Scheme' explains which people, settings and activities are covered by the scheme. It also provides details and examples of those activities that are regulated and controlled.

Sector specific guidance is currently being devised and will be available very soon. The guidance will provide specific examples within each customer sector of which roles are and are not considered to be regulated activity.

We hope that the following FAQs will assist you further. They are also available on the CRB website www.crb.gov.uk