

CSAS

Safeguarding Matters

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS

ISA REGISTRATION LAUNCH HALTED

On 15th June 2010, Home Secretary Teresa May announced that the ISA Registration Scheme (due to launch on 26th July) has been halted. This is to allow the Government to remodel the Scheme to “proportionate, common sense levels”. Below are some Q&As which we hope prove helpful in light of the announcement.

What should we be doing with regards to recruiting employees and volunteers in the Church to work with vulnerable groups?

The CRB have advised that whilst the ISA Scheme may be subject to review it is “business as usual” for the CRB. Consequently we continue to maintain our existing safer recruitment/selection practices including the use of Enhanced CRB checks for those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults in the Church.

What forms are we using then?

The CRB have confirmed that the new purple application forms (which allow for ISA registration AND CRB Disclosure applications) will continue as intended. Obviously Section D will be left incomplete until further notice and question 28 of Section A should not be completed.

The “position applied for” field can ONLY be completed for the first 30 characters however. Questions 64 and 65 of Section X (which check against the new barred lists) continue as they have been since October 2009 on the existing CRB application only form.

Your Diocese or the Conference of Religious Counter-Signatories will be able to advise on when **they** will accept the new forms for submission to the CRB from 28th June onwards. Please note that the CRB will not commence processing of the new forms until 26th July as they move over to their new processing system. The forms that accompany the process (i.e. Application Form; ID Verification Form and Safeguarding Self Declaration) will continue in the versions that were released prior to the ISA-ready versions. Again your Diocese or the CoR Counter-Signatories office will be able to support you on this.

Will ISA Registration eventually be implemented?

We cannot answer this at the current time as no information is available at the moment regarding how the Scheme will be remodelled under the new Government. Once we know more about how the Scheme will be revised we will of course keep you informed.

What about the cost of a CRB check?

The fees for CRB Disclosures remain as they have been i.e. £36 for an Enhanced CRB check for a person who is not a volunteer. For those who meet the CRB definition of a Volunteer, the CRB do not charge for the check.

I am involved in a Care Home run by a Religious Order. What about the ISA Adult First service?

All we know at this time is that this service will run until 26th July 2010. Once we know more, we will release the details.

When will we know more? At this time the full scope of the Governments intentions for the Scheme and their timetable is not known. Once we know more, we will of course share it with you.