

CSAS

# Safeguarding Matters

## Welcome to the 13th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 13th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable groups. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

### Latest CRB news and it's good news!!!

#### Revision to the retention period for information relevant to CRB Disclosure applications:

"A Programme for Action" (published in 2001) by Lord Nolan recommended that information relating to the safe recruitment of those working with children or vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church should be retained for 100 years. This period was then endorsed within "Safeguarding With Confidence" by the Cumberlege Commission in 2007. As a result of this recommendation the Confidential Declaration Form and ID Verification form for each applicant has to date been retained by the Diocesan Counter-Signatories or appropriate person for 100 years. In light of recent information received, CSAS can



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now advise that the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission have reviewed this area and have reduced the retention period to 75 years.

#### New CRB related forms released:

CSAS is happy to advise that new CRB related forms have been released in November for immediate use. CSAS has undertaken a full review of the forms that accompany the CRB application process in response to an expressed need for easier to complete, less intrusive versions that streamline the forms whilst not sacrificing vigilance.

The revised forms have been developed through extensive consultation on a previously unprecedented basis and with invaluable comment from various perspectives within Diocesan Safeguarding Offices and Religious Orders.

The resulting forms have been reviewed by legal advisers to ensure they are fully compliant with Data Protection Act; Employment Law; Equality and Human Rights Act and Rehabilitation of Offenders Act legislation in addition to CRB Code of Practice requirements. Due to the extensive work that has been carried out and the legal oversight, the forms cannot be amended or adjusted as this could result in non-compliance with relevant legislation or breach CRB Code of Practice. The following revised forms are now in circulation and will take some time to filter:

- ◆ Application form for those volunteering to work in the Church with vulnerable groups
- ◆ Form to be used to seek references for those volunteering to work with vulnerable groups
- ◆ ID verification form (for use with paid; unpaid; clergy; religious alike)
- ◆ Safeguarding Self Declaration (for use with all posts—paid, unpaid, clergy etc)

CSAS has also made available (via the Forms Library of [www.csasprocedures.uk.net](http://www.csasprocedures.uk.net) website) sample forms for those employing people to salaried posts working with children or vulnerable adults.

## ISA in 2010

Sadly 2009 has not been a good year with regards to the press attention around the new Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme however 2010 is a major year for this Scheme and we need to remember the intention and objectives that sit behind the initiative.

Sir Michael Bichard KCG, who was tasked with leading the inquiry into the factors surrounding the Soham murders, has said

***“ for those agencies whose job it is to protect children and vulnerable people, the harsh reality is that if a sufficiently devious person is determined to seek out opportunities to work their evil, no one can guarantee that they will be stopped.***

***Our task is to make it as difficult as possible for them to succeed...”***

So with Sir Michael’s words in mind, what can we expect in 2010 in terms of ISA introduction within the Catholic Church?

- ◆ Internal dialogues will take place within the Church (through existing well-established Safeguarding channels) concerning what our policy stance should be about which types of role require ISA registration only and which warrant a CRB Disclosure AND ISA registration.
- ◆ The Home Office will release the complete ISA Guidance including procedural guidance on submitting ISA registration application and online status checking.
- ◆ CSAS will rewrite and re-issue the Safer Recruitment policy and procedure within the Church that factors in the practicalities of ISA registration.
- ◆ CSAS will develop and release decision making tools that will assist in establishing if newly identified roles require ISA registration.
- ◆ Release of new CRB/ISA combined application stationery through Counter-Signatories.
- ◆ Minor revisions will be made to CRB accompanying forms to factor in ISA registration fields.

Compared to many Sectors and organisations, please be assured that the Catholic Church is in a very strong position to adapt to this new Scheme.

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy 2010  
to you all from everyone at CSAS**



**The next issue of “Safeguarding Matters” is due out in February 2010**