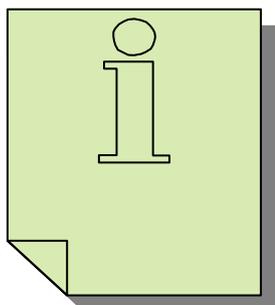


CSAS

# Safeguarding Matters



## Welcome to the 7th issue of Safeguarding Matters

This is the 7th issue of a bi-monthly Newsletter that CSAS releases to all those within the Church with some responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable people. If you have any comments to make about this issue, please email Sally Robinson (sally.robinson@csas.uk.net)

## Don't go OTT on CRB

### Inside this issue:

CRBs – use them wisely 1

Following the acceptance of a “Programme of Action” (Nolan Report) by the Bishops Conference and the Conference of Religious, the Catholic Church has (over the last 5+ years) become a model of best practice regarding the principle:

**“Treat all would-be paid staff and volunteers as job applicants for any position involving contact with children”**

Helpful glossary 2

This principle includes the requirement for a CRB Disclosure for those working with vulnerable groups within the Church and the level of vigilance demonstrated within parishes and Religious Orders regarding obtaining CRB checks continues to be hugely encouraging and positive.

VBS update 2

BUT you can have too much of a good thing! **So remember—a CRB Disclosure can only be obtained for those who are or will be performing a role with vulnerable groups.**

We have recently received a number of enquiries at CSAS regarding obtaining a Disclosure for individuals who will **not** be undertaking a relevant role, for example someone who lives within the vicinity of a school or parish premises which children attend. Each CRB application has to fit within the CRB Code of Practice and this kind of example does not qualify at a fundamental level.

As we are all aware the CRB Disclosure process is intrusive, and we should not ask people to complete a CRB Disclosure application if they will not be undertaking relevant roles. If the Church submitted a Disclosure application for someone who will not be undertaking a relevant role, the subject of the Disclosure application could take legal action against the Church, or the CRB could impose severe penalties against the Church as a Registered Body.

**CRB Disclosures continue to be only part of the Church's safeguarding processes.** They are an integral part of a wider picture which includes for example, management of activities with children or vulnerable adults in ways which ensure safe practice whilst also reducing the need to pursue a CRB Disclosure for every helper. Principles enshrined in the Creating a Safe Environment policy contribute to achieving a pragmatic balance in this respect.

Please contact CSAS should you have any questions regarding the appropriate or proportionate use of CRB checks or need advice and support regarding how activities may be safely managed.



Great news! The parish pack is finalised and is being despatched to Dioceses for them to publish and issue to parishes.

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## VBS, IBB, Disclosure ??!!!

**Too many terms and abbreviations?  
Maybe our Glossary will prove useful**



CSAS has received requests from readers of "Safeguarding Matters" asking for assistance with the various terms, abbreviation and mnemonics used with relation to the Vetting & Barring scheme and Safeguarding.

So in response to this plea, we include a glossary of some of the terms that may be causing confusion

**CDF** (or Confidential Declaration Form) - the form which enables applicants who wish to work with vulnerable groups to voluntarily disclose details of relevant information including their conviction history. This is a requirement of the CRB under the Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders Act.

**CRB** (or Criminal Records Bureau) - the agency of the Home Office with responsibility for delivering a Disclosure service within England & Wales.

**Disclosure** - also referred to as a "CRB Check". The printed document which reveals any conviction or offence information for an individual applying to work with vulnerable groups.

**IBB** (or Independent Barring Board) - the Board of the Independent Safeguarding Authority with responsibility for making and reviewing barring decisions.

**ISA** (or Independent Safeguarding Authority) - the Agency responsible for assessing every person who wants to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults.

**Regulated Activity** (per VBS) — Any activity which involves contact with children and/or vulnerable adults due to the nature of the activity or the place in which the activity occurs.

**VBS** (or Vetting and Barring Scheme) - the mandatory Scheme (as of 12th Oct 2009) for the registration of those individuals wishing to work with vulnerable groups and who present "no known reason" why they cannot work these groups.

## Latest Information on ISA and the Vetting & Barring Scheme

As you are aware CSAS is a member of a Faith sector Consultative Group with the Home Office regarding the introduction of the Vetting & Barring Scheme. We are aware that the Independent Safeguarding Authority are currently working on the decision-making process concerning what convictions; patterns of behaviour etc should warrant a decision to bar.

In addition to this a first draft of specific sections of Guidance documentation has been released by the Home Office to specific stakeholders for comment regarding readability; content and tone. We'll continue to keep you updated as information is received.

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**The next issue of "Safeguarding Matters" is due out in February 2009.**

**CSAS wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

