

Criminal Records Bureau Review

When it came into power the current Government announced a review of the way that CRB checks (and the proposed Vetting and Barring Scheme) operate. As you will have heard in the news, proposals have now been announced. Most importantly, it should be noted that, at this stage these are only proposals and therefore there is no change to the current system until the process is completed and changes are made. However, it is also important to remember that this is all subject to discussion and agreement in Parliament.

For your information, the main announcements/proposals which may affect RDA were as follows:

1. There will still be a state body to provide a checking and barring function to help employers (including voluntary groups) protect those at risk.
2. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) should be merged and a single Agency created to provide a barring and criminal records disclosure service.
3. The new barring regime should cover only those who may have regular or close contact with vulnerable groups. [*Note – they have not yet defined what is meant by "regular" and "close"*].
4. Barring will continue to apply to both paid and voluntary roles.
5. Criminal records disclosures should continue to be available to employers and voluntary bodies but should be revised to become portable through the introduction of a system which allows for continuous updating.
6. Services relating to criminal records disclosure and barring provisions should be self-financing.
7. There will be a consultation on raising the cost of the CRB fee [*however, the government have previously committed to retaining free checks for volunteers*].

Some of these changes may make it easier for RDA to apply CRB checks, but it is important to note:

These are currently proposals and not plans – so there is no change for the time being!