



Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) Update

The electronic newsletter for stakeholders

May 2009



Welcome to the May Newsletter for the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

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1. Stakeholder information roadshows

The dates for the Vetting & Barring Scheme Information Roadshows have now been announced, the roadshows are being presented in association with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

The roadshows will explain the scope of the scheme and its impact on employers, voluntary organisations and service users, and provide an opportunity for delegates to have their questions answered.

Wednesday 03 June	Nottingham
Thursday 04 June	Coventry
Friday 05 June	Newmarket
Monday 08 June	York
Tuesday 09 June	Newcastle
Wednesday 17 June	Plymouth
Friday 26 June	London
Monday 29 June	Belfast
Monday 06 July	Reading
Friday 10 July	Southampton
Monday 13 July	Cardiff
Tuesday 14 July	Llandudno
Wednesday 15 July	Liverpool

Each venue will run a morning session from 10:00am until 1:00pm and an afternoon session from 2:00pm until 5:00pm, with the exception of London which will run a single session from 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

The events are free to attend and open to all interested parties, however, strong demand is anticipated, and as places are limited these must be booked in advance through the ISA website: <http://www.isa-gov.org>. Joining Instructions and directions to the venue will then be forwarded to those who have booked.

2. Speaking at conferences and stakeholder events

The Communications Team at the Vetting and Barring Scheme in the Home Office is happy to coordinate speakers for independently organised events and conferences. These are often as part of a wider safeguarding event or local government briefing.

However, due to the demand on our speaker's time and the cost of travel, in general we request that any such events meet the following criteria:

- Allow a minimum of 1.5 hours on the agenda, including an open Q&A
- Have a target audience number of 100 or over
- Be open to local stakeholders and can be advertised as such on the ISA website (Acceptance of individual delegates is of course at the organiser's discretion).
- Are free to attend.

In addition DVDs and core presentations with speaking notes will be available for stakeholders to use at their own events – please contact the Communications Team via the scheme info email address scheme.info@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

3. ISA prepares for October's strengthened Safeguarding role

A year after the Darlington-based ISA began advising Government Ministers on who should be barred from working with children and vulnerable adults, the organisation is gearing itself up for its pivotal role in the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS). The Scheme covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

On October 12th 2009 – the ISA's responsibilities for barring individuals who pose a known risk from working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults will be further strengthened as more sectors – such as the NHS and the Prison Service – will come under the Scheme and new criminal offences will come into force.

While the ISA is presently making decisions based on the current legislation, it is also ensuring that both the right people and systems are in place for all phases of the Scheme - the October roll-out; July 2010 when those covered by the Scheme can apply and the November 2010 date when those covered by the Scheme must apply. This work entails:

- Recruiting and providing intensive training to its caseworkers
- Working with the Criminal Records Bureau to design and agree processes
- Migrate the three old lists into the two new ones (Childrens and Adults)
- Ensuring the IT infrastructure is in place and effective
- Developing relationships and protocols with key partners and stakeholders
- Participate in a major direct marketing and awareness campaign

4. More information

If you have any questions or queries about the Vetting and Barring Scheme please call 0300 123 1111 [calls charged at local geographic rate, i.e. the same as a 01 or 02 number]. Operators staffing this Lo-call service will be available to deal with your queries Monday to Friday between 8am and 5.30pm. Or alternatively email scheme.info@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.