

## Vetting and Barring Scheme - FAQs

### **What is the new Vetting and Barring Scheme?**

The first centralised system for all those working with children and vulnerable adults. An individual who is working/volunteering or seeking to work/volunteer with children or vulnerable adults must apply to be on the register. Criteria for registering with the scheme includes having contact on a frequent or intensive basis.

### **What is the meaning of "frequent and intensive"?**

Either of:

- At least once a week; or
- 4 days a month; or
- Overnight

### **How do I register?**

Applicants should apply to be ISA registered via the CRB on the new application form.

### **Will a CRB check still be required?**

Yes. The ISA scheme does not remove the need for a CRB check. An ISA registration does not mean that the person does not have a criminal record so CRB checks will still need to be carried out to check for previous convictions.

### **We usually renew our CRB checks every three years – will we still need to do that?**

Yes. The scheme does not remove the need to keep up to date CRB checks. Whilst the Vetting & Barring scheme is a one off registration which will keep organisations informed if an individual becomes barred, it does not provide the same information as a CRB check.

### **Who pays for the ISA registration?**

There are 11 million volunteers in the UK and it is important that they are not discouraged from volunteering by the new scheme.

Unpaid volunteers do not have to pay the £64 ISA registration fee. However, the fee will become payable if the volunteer takes up paid employment in a regulated activity at some point in the future.

### **What if we do not check if our volunteers/employees are ISA registered?**

Failure to do so exposes you and your organisation to the risk of a fine of up to £5000 and/or imprisonment for up to 6 months.

### **Do I have to renew my registration?**

No. Registration is once only. Organisations will be informed if an individual becomes barred.

### **What information is used to conduct the vetting process?**

Information is gathered from police, previous employers, professional bodies etc.

The ISA then uses all relevant information to consider whether the Applicant should be placed on a Barred List.

**The trustees of children's charities will need to be registered. Will that also apply to the trustees of charities which work with vulnerable adults?**

Yes. All charities that carry out work targeted at vulnerable adults are considered to be vulnerable adults' charities and all trustees are engaging in regulated activity, and it will be an offence for a barred person to hold such a position. Schedule 4, Part 2 8(1)(e) Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 states that a trustee of a vulnerable adults charity is carrying out a regulated activity.

**We run a community arts project. We regularly work with children. The leaders and trustees will be registered. Occasionally adults participate in the classes we run. Must they be registered?**

The participating adults are not working in a specified place or carrying out work of a specified nature and will not, therefore, need to be registered.

**Is it still necessary for a volunteer to be registered if they are overseen by a person who is on the register?**

Yes. The scheme applies to all persons engaging in regulated activity. If they are in contact with children or vulnerable adults, the fact they are being supervised is irrelevant.

**What if the person concerned is never alone with children or vulnerable adults?**

The person will still be required to register if they are working/volunteering with children or vulnerable adults.

**I work at a tourist attraction. We have occasional visits from school groups. Do the staff involved need to be registered with the ISA?**

The frequent or intensive test should be applied. If the school visits occur once a month for at least 3 months or at least 3 times a month, the staff will have to be registered.

**Further Reading**

- HM Government, The Vetting and Barring Scheme Guidance, October 2009
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

**For further information please contact:**

**Shivaji Shiva, Head of Charities and Social Enterprise, Michelmores**

**Tel: 01392 687562**

**Email: [tss@michelmores.com](mailto:tss@michelmores.com)**