



Independent Safeguarding Authority

# The Vetting and Barring Scheme and the Independent Safeguarding Authority: ISRM seminar 3 October 2008



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## Highlights

- Core purpose: to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults
- The Scheme will reform current vetting and barring practices.....
- ...but employers retain their responsibilities for ensuring safe recruitment and employment practices.



## The Bichard Report - Recommendation 19

**“ New arrangements should be introduced requiring those who wish to work with children, or vulnerable adults, to be registered. The register would confirm that there is no known reason why an individual should not work with these client groups.”**



## Legal & policy framework

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 sets out the scope of the scheme.

- It defines two types of activity for which there are requirements on employers and individuals:
  - **regulated activity** and
  - **controlled activity**.



## Definition of regulated activity

- Any activity which involves contact with children or vulnerable adults and is of a specified nature (e.g. teaching, training, care, supervision, advice, treatment or transport) ... frequently, intensively and/or overnight.
- Any activity allowing contact with children or vulnerable adults and is in a specified place (e.g. schools, children's homes, etc) ... frequently or intensively.
- Fostering and childcare.
- Certain defined "office holders" (e.g. LA Director of Children's Services, trustees of children's charities, school governor).
- No distinction is made between paid and voluntary work.



# What regulated activity means

**Duties and responsibilities under regulated activity where an organisation is providing the activity:**

- A barred individual must not undertake regulated activity.
- To undertake regulated activity an individual must be ISA-registered.
- An employer must not engage in regulated activity a barred person or a person who is not ISA-registered.
- An employer must check that a prospective employee who is in regulated activity is ISA-registered.
- Personal and family relationships are not covered.



# Domestic employment circumstances

## Domestic employment circumstances:

- Those employed (e.g. home tutors) by **domestic employers** (e.g. parents).
- The **self-employed** (e.g. sports coaches).

**It will not be mandatory for employers in domestic circumstances to check their employees, but they can.**

**A barred person must not engage in this employment.**



## Employer duties - Referrals

- **Employers, professional and regulatory bodies, and child protection teams in Local Authorities** will be under a **duty to refer** relevant information to the ISA in certain circumstances.
- In other circumstances employers **may** refer information regarding an individual's conduct to the ISA.



## When does it start?

- The new Vetting and Barring Scheme 'goes live' on **12 October 2009.**
- New entrants to the workforce & those moving jobs will be the first to go through the scheme.
- Members of the existing workforce will be phased into the scheme over a **five year** period.



## What will it cost?

- Individuals in paid employment will pay **£64** when applying for registration with the Scheme.
- The one-off application fee is composed of two elements: £28 to fund the running of the ISA and £36 to pay for the CRB Enhanced Disclosure.
- Those involved only in unpaid **voluntary** activity will **pay no application fee.**



## How it will work – Barring decisions

The **Independent Safeguarding Authority** will:

- **Decide** who to place on **the barred lists** and maintain the barred lists
- Consider **representations**



## How it will work – *continued*

Barring Routes:

- **Auto Bar – without representation**
- **Auto Bar – with representation**
- **Bar based on case assessment**

**A barred person loses their ISA registration**



## How it will work – Operations

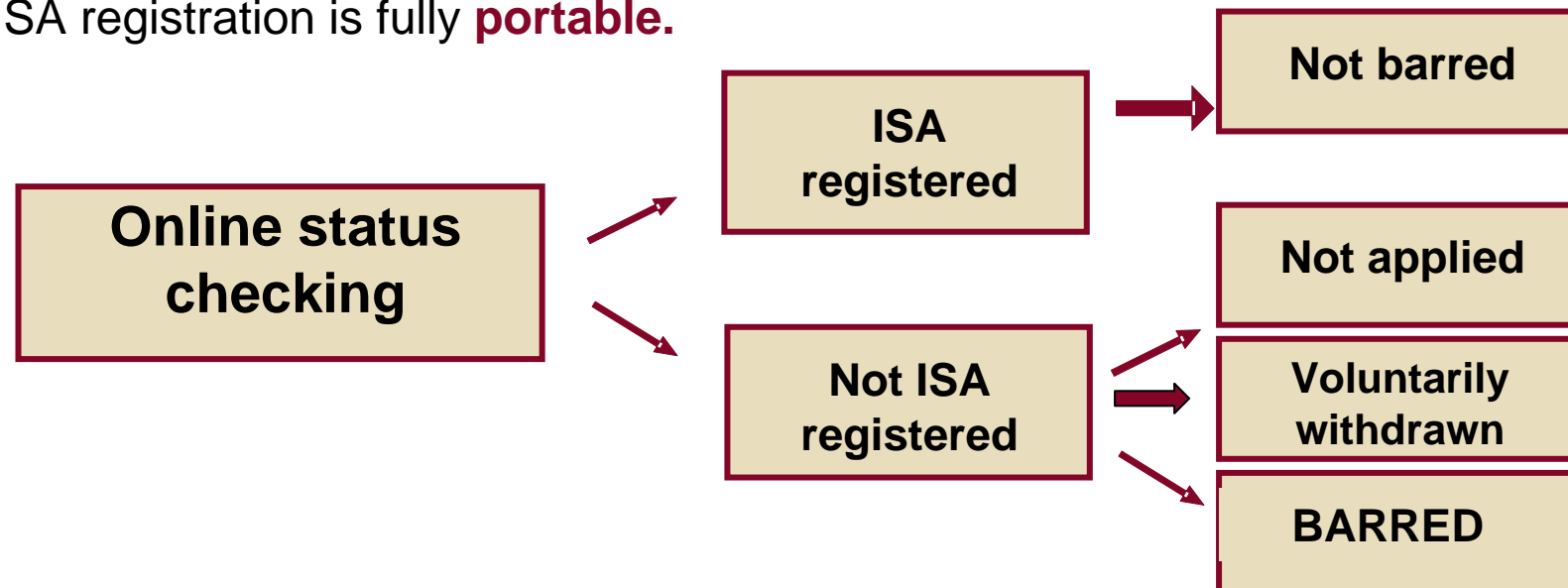
The **Criminal Records Bureau** will:

- **Receive applications** for scheme registration
- **Gather and monitor information** for the ISA
- **Administer** the continuous updating of records
- Provide the facility for **online checks**



## Scheme operation – Barring and online status

- The status of individuals will be continuously updated on receipt of **new information**, such as new convictions or referrals from employers.
- Employers will be **notified**, where they have registered an interest, if the status of their employee changes.
- ISA registration is fully **portable**.



# Transitional stages

- ISA established January 2008
- Currently barred individuals: ISA is including them, or considering to include them, on the new barred lists
- From 31 March 2008, ISA has been advising the Secretaries of State on referrals to the current barring schemes
- From Winter 2008 (subject to Parliamentary approval), ISA will be taking the decisions on referrals to the current barring schemes



# Summary

- Barring decisions will be taken by **independent experts**.
- Once fully implemented, **anyone working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults** in regulated activity must register with the Scheme.
- Employers **must** verify a person's registration status and ensure those they place with vulnerable people are on the scheme.
- **Better information sharing** - employers, other statutory, business and public organisations **must** refer appropriate information to the ISA.
- Employers will be informed if an employee becomes de-registered from the scheme.
- Parents/individuals will be able to check that the workers they employ in a private capacity in regulated activity are registered with the ISA.



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For further information  
please visit

[www.isa-gov.org](http://www.isa-gov.org)



department for  
**children, schools and families**



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Department  
of Health

**Thank You**