



CRB checks and new Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Criminal Records Bureau is to reduce the fee for a Standard Disclosure from £31 to £26 as of 1st October 2009. This is due to an expected increase in the volume of disclosure applications being processed as the new Vetting and Barring Scheme comes into place. However Enhanced checks, which are heavily used by organisations working with children or vulnerable adults, will remain at £36. Those working with children will still have to pay £64 to register for the vetting and barring scheme. This includes a £28 fee to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority and £36 for a CRB check. The new fees will apply from 1 October 2009 and throughout the remainder of 2009/10. From 12 October 2009 standard disclosures will no longer be available for any work with children or vulnerable adults. All disclosures for such work will be enhanced.

The new ISA website <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/> contains practical information for individuals and organisations who need or wish to register with the Vetting and Barring Scheme, whether as potential employees/volunteers or as employers/service providers, including the following sections: Your legal responsibilities; Employers and volunteer organisations; Employees and volunteers; How to apply; What happens next?

Extract from the website

'The Independent Safeguarding Authority's (ISA) role is to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. We will assess every person who wants to work or volunteer with vulnerable people. Potential employees and volunteers will need to apply to register with the ISA.

Applicants will be assessed using data gathered by the [Criminal Records Bureau \(CRB\) \(link opens in new window\)](#), including relevant criminal convictions, cautions, police intelligence and other appropriate sources. Using this information we will decide on a case-by-case basis whether each person is suited to this work. We will securely store information about people's ISA status for employers and voluntary organisations to use when they are recruiting. Only applicants who are judged not to pose a risk to vulnerable people can be ISA-registered. Once the scheme has been fully rolled out, employers who work with vulnerable people will only be allowed to recruit people who are ISA-registered.'

From FAQs section

How much will it cost to apply to register with the Vetting and Barring Scheme?

The cost of applying to register with the Vetting and Barring Scheme has been set at £64. This is comprised of a £28 fee to cover the ISA's costs and £36 to cover the CRB's costs as administrator of the applications.

The figures and forecasts for the first five years of the scheme's operation have been analysed and the £28 figure is based on cost-recovery for the scheme – that is, what it will cost to ensure the scheme is self-financed during that period.

The fee will be a one-off payment and is intended to cover the applicant for the duration of their career in regulated activity. Only those involved in unpaid voluntary activity will not have to pay the application fee.

The **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**, setting out the legislative framework for the scheme, is at www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/20060047.htm, with explanatory notes at www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/en2006/2006en47.htm.

Various amendments to the SVGA are in part 8 of the **Policing and Crime Bill**, which can be accessed via tinyurl.com/c2q2vo.