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New CRB/ISA Forms

All the Vetting and Barring Training evenings have now taken place, thank you to all those who attended, we were encouraged by the turn out.

Government Review Announced

You may be aware that the government recently announced that the development of the Vetting and Barring scheme was to be reviewed. We have few details of what the review will cover but it is understood to be an attempt to enable a more 'commonsense' approach to be taken to the issue of registration and the provision of criminal records information for those who are engaged in work with vulnerable groups (children and adults).

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Disclosures

The immediate effect of this review is that the registration of new workers with the ISA is not to proceed at the moment, however it will remain possible, and should be encouraged, for all workers to continue to obtain CRB Disclosures. As far as we know this means that those who need to apply for new Disclosures or refresh their Disclosures can continue to do so. Applicants must not complete box D which relates to ISA registration and the new £64 fee will not apply but a fee of £36 will remain for a CRB Disclosure for paid workers. Applicants can start to submit these new forms to the Churches Agency for Safeguarding (CAS) from 5th July 2010 but the CRB will not start to process them until 26th July.

Forms Enclosed

Stocks of the old CRB forms and CAS forms should be shredded immediately as they will no longer be accepted.

Please find enclosed 2 of the new CRB/ISA application forms. We only have a very limited supply of these forms at the moment. Please note that these forms are only for churches that use the Churches Agency for Safeguarding (CAS) as their umbrella body, as they are pre-printed with their Registered Body number. If you use another umbrella body (such as CCPAS for example) we would appreciate it if you could return these forms to the NWBA as they will be of no use to you.

The CAS still require applicants to submit a CAS form and Documentary Evidence sheet with each application. The CAS form is slightly modified (and is 2 sided) and there are new guidance notes for completing the application form. There is a copy of these enclosed, they are also available on the CAS website and the BUGB website, we would encourage you to download them from there.

Once further stocks of the new CRB/ISA forms are made available these will be held by the BUGB Publications Department for churches to request, as at present. The e-mail address to contact is publications@baptist.org.uk. Please write 'CRB order for (name of church)' in the subject line of the e-mail, and then specify the number of forms needed, delivery address and contact telephone number. The Publications Department do not anticipate receiving any more forms until after 26 July.

Vetting and Barring

The parts of the new scheme that will remain in force are those relating to the requirement to refer those who have been disciplined for placing people at serious risk of harm, been dismissed from their job for these reasons or who may have left their job before discipline can be completed. The other parts of the scheme that remain in force are those related to the merging of the barred lists and the prohibition on barred people from applying to work with vulnerable groups according to the barring limitations already imposed on them.

As more information becomes available we will circulate it to you. If you have any questions about the new CRB/ISA process don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Crawford
Regional Minister

