



**Information note
2 July 2010**

The government's review of the vetting and barring scheme: how does it affect chiropractors?

This information note is particularly relevant for:

- **chiropractors who are employers**
- **chiropractors who work as volunteers with children and vulnerable adults.**

1. On 15 June 2010, the Home Secretary announced the government's decision to review and remodel the vetting and barring scheme that came into force in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on **12 October 2009**.

2. The Independent Safeguarding Authority's first phase of registration, which had been due to start on 26 July 2010, of new employees and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults has been **halted**.

This means that until further notice:

- chiropractors who are **employers** will **not** be required to recruit ISA registered individuals only
- chiropractors who work as **volunteers** with children and vulnerable adults will **not** be required to register with the ISA.

What remains?

3. While the government undertakes its review the new **safeguarding regulations** introduced in **October 2009** continue to apply.

4. The ISA will continue to maintain the two lists of barred individuals who are referred to the ISA and are considered to be 'unsuitable' to work with children or vulnerable adults.

5. The right to ask for an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure was extended to all those who employ or use volunteers in types of activity called '**regulated activity**'. Regulated activity includes the provision of care and/or frequent access to patients and children

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6. **How does this affect chiropractors?**
- a. Chiropractors who are recruiting new members of staff should continue to carry out appropriate pre-recruitment checks, including Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks where appropriate
 - b. A chiropractor who knowingly employs someone who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law
 - c. A chiropractor who dismisses a member of staff or a volunteer because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or would have dismissed them if they had not left, must tell the ISA
 - d. A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups
7. The ISA will continue to carry out its work as an independent decision making body as well as continuing to maintain the barred lists. They will also continue to accept referrals, full guidance of which is available here: <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=379>

More information

8. The vetting and barring scheme was designed to protect children and vulnerable adults by preventing individuals who pose a known risk from gaining access to them through their work or voluntary activities.
9. The government has stated that it will provide further information when available on:
www.direct.gov.uk/vetting
www.nidirect.gov.uk/vetting
www.businesslink.gov.uk/vbs
10. The ISA has published detailed advice on its website: www.isa.gov.org.uk or phone the VBS contact centre on 0300 123 1111.
11. There is a separate scheme in Scotland that remains unaffected by the government's review:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1141/0100847.pdf>
12. This note is intended to provide helpful information to chiropractors. It is based on publicly available information and is not an exhaustive guide to chiropractors' legal responsibilities or the remit and processes of the ISA.
13. Chiropractors who are members of chiropractic professional associations may also find it helpful to contact them for further advice.

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