

Safeguarding – Home Office Briefing

Leicester 6th July 2012

This note summarises matters relating to Safeguarding as set out in a one of a series of briefings carried out by the Home Office. A number of questions have arisen which are being pursued and I shall be preparing an update article for the Ringing World in due course.

Regulated activity

As far as ringers are concerned there is little change, a “Regulated Activity” requiring CRB check continues to be teaching/training/instruction of those under 18 which is unsupervised and takes place regularly, that is once a week or 4 days in 30, OR including overnight stays (e.g. Ringing Course). Vulnerable adults are defined specifically in social needs terms and will not involve ringing *unless* the teaching of ringing was part of a programme of social work requested or arranged by social services.

Supervised activities

A ringer who is teaching as part of a group under the direct supervision of a CRB checked person is EXEMPT from any requirement for CRB check. This is enshrined in Section 64 of the Protection of Freedoms Act. However, supervision must be reasonable for nature of activity thus helpers in a crèche or Sunday school could not each reasonably be supervised dealing with young children.

Transporting children

Transporting children where organised by a specific group on a regular basis will need CRB check and two adults in vehicle recommended. A family or personal arrangement is EXEMPT

Certificates and portability

Following a CRB check application, a Certificate with relevant information will ONLY be sent to the person to whom it refers. It will NOT be sent to the user organisation. Any error or query can be taken up by the person and successful challenges will result in a new Certificate being issued.

It is the intention that, from some time on 2013, there will be an “Update” facility for which an individual can register for an annual fee (expected to be around £10). The person will then be able to show another user organisation his CRB Certificate with an update verifying that there has been no change.

General

ISA and CRB will be merged in December 2012 as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Updating service facilitating portability to be introduced in 2013 (to be announced).

Changes to definitions and requirements for CRB effective from 10th September, 2012.