

TUC VETTING & BARRING GROUP NOTES OF MEETING HELD 9 MAY 2011

Attendance

John Lowe (AMIE), George Georgiou (RCM), D Linay (RCM), Amanda brown (NUT), Christiane Ohsan (UCU), Kehinde Adeogun (ATL), Elaine Sparkes (CSP), Paul Bromley (SOR), Will Hardy (RCN), Sharon Prout (UNISON), Carol English (UNITE), Gail Adams (UNISON), Ben Thomas (UNISON), Sarah Peters (UNISON), John Freeman (UNISON).

Apologies

Mick Hubbard (GMB), Matt Dykes (TUC), Dave McCulloch (UNISON), Alison Roche (UNISON)

Key Points

Progress since last meeting –

- February – government published outcome of their review of V&B Scheme (England, Wales and N Ireland).
- First part of review by Sunita Mason on CRB regime published.
- Proposals published in Protection of Freedoms Bill (currently reaching conclusion of public consultation stage – ends 17 May)

General view welcoming responses to TUC submissions. Progress noted on certain key TUC aims:

- Requirement to register under V&B Scheme to be scrapped
- ISA to be merged with CRB
- CRB checks to be limited to those working with vulnerable groups and made “portable”
- CR certificates will be issued to employee before employer providing individuals opportunity to challenge information before employer sees it

However, outstanding issues:

- Lack of clarity about how the new arrangements impact on registration bodies (HPC, NMC, GSCC, GTC, etc)
- Uncertainty over complete timetable for completion of parliamentary process (and subsequent enactment of provisions)
- No confirmation of right of individuals to make representations prior to barring decisions and right of appeal against any such decisions – key TUC objective
- Ambiguity in Bill around CRB charges and who pays – language inferring obligation may be passed from employer to employee. Employer pays is a key TUC objective
- Ambiguity around position of supervised volunteers, varying according to different circumstances, but unclear whether any standard applies

Agreed Action

- Protection of Freedoms Bill
 - Gail Adams to prepare brief TUC submission
 - Any unions who have made/plan to make submissions to forward copies to Gail in next few days
 - TUC submission to focus solely on 2 points – right to make verbal representation on proposed barring decisions and appeal hearings; employer to bear cost of CRB checks
 - Submission to form basis of briefing for MPs; Connect to be asked to assist
- Approach Home Office/Dept of Health for clarity about interim measures, current operation of V&B scheme, impact on registration bodies of changes – Gail

Next Meeting

July