

The Impact of the ISA on Vetting and Professional Standards Departments

Commander Simon Pountain

Disclosure of Criminal Convictions
Information Management Portfolio

Scheme Overview

- The Vetting and Barring Scheme is a core recommendation of the **Richard Inquiry** and is central to a new framework which enables information sharing to support public protection.
- The **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** sets out the scope of the scheme in England, Wales & Northern Ireland.
- Core purpose: to **prevent unsuitable people from working or volunteering** with children & vulnerable adults in **formal** arrangements



Police



Regulators **Umbrella
Bodies**

Other Government Departments

**Stakeholders in Education, Faith,
Health / Social Care, Sport, Local Authorities**

Employers , Recruitment Agencies, Unions, Charities

PRIORITISING
STANDARDS

RESOURCES

Principal
Sponsor



The Independent Safeguarding Authority

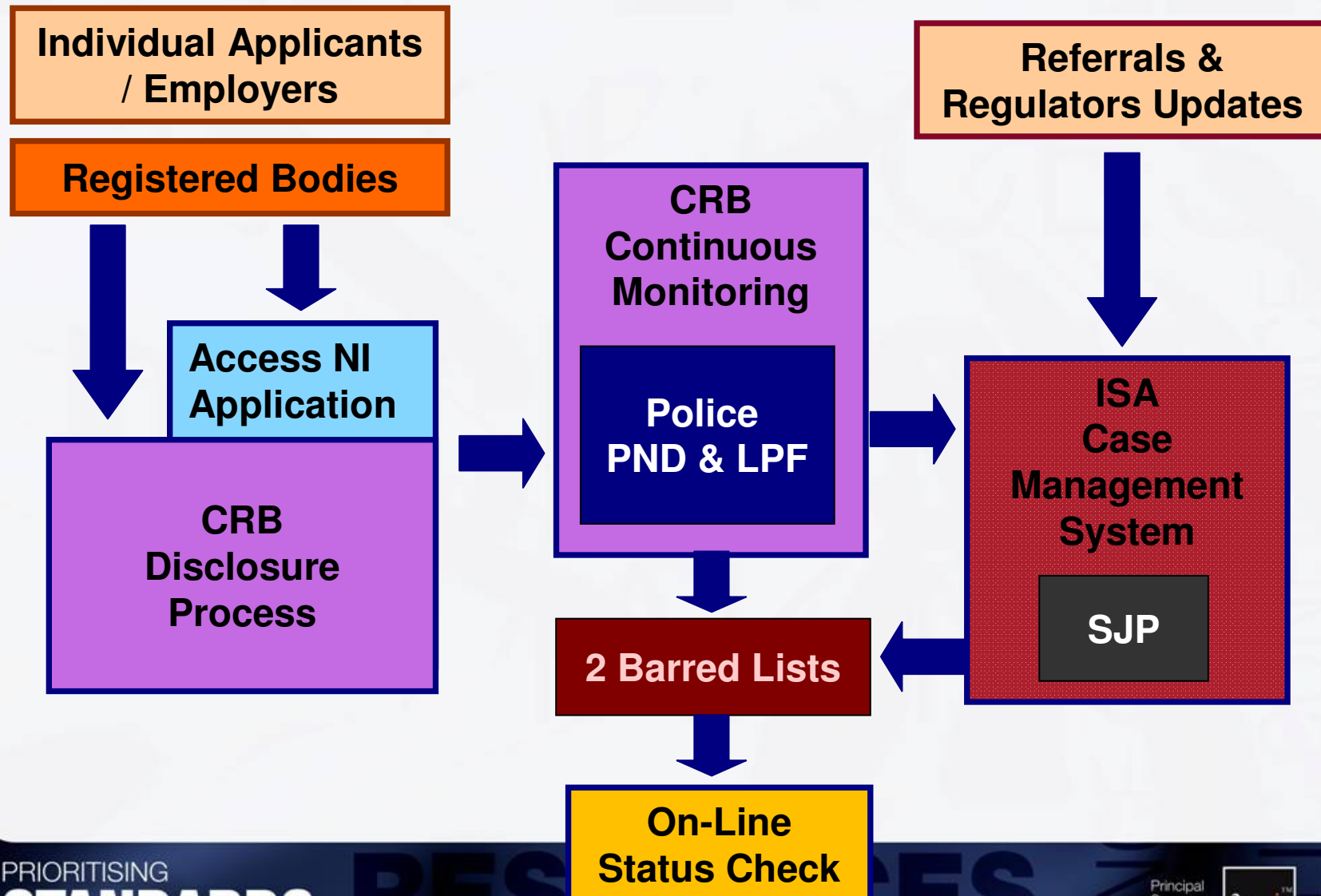


A non-departmental public body, established in **Jan 2008**

Responsibilities:

- Act as a central point to collect information and intelligence in order to protect children or vulnerable adults
- To bar people who are unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults
- To manage the barred lists for Children and Vulnerable Adults (previously POCA, POVA, List 99)

Overview of Scheme Process



Impact on the Police

- Application for exemption from the requirement to register.
- Access to the Barred lists

Exemption.

The Home Secretary provided an exemption to police from the requirement to register with the scheme.

This means that police officers and staff who engage with vulnerable adults and children for policing purposes will not need to:

- Register with the scheme
- Be subject to continuous monitoring as part of the scheme
- o **But**: This exemption does not apply to the referral aspect of the scheme and police will need to refer a safeguarding incident to the ISA as per the ISA's referral policy.

Referrals to the ISA

The obligation on police to refer matters to the ISA does not commence until November 2010 (*The is currently subject to ministerial review.*)

*Before a referral is made certain conditions **MUST** be met.*

Police have withdrawn permission for an individual to engage in regulated activity, or would have done so had that individual not resigned, retired, been made redundant, been transferred to another position or a disciplinary hearing has concluded

and

It is believed that the individual has:

- engaged in relevant conduct, or
- satisfied the *Harm Test*, or
- received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence

Access to the Barred lists for Police

- For a policing purpose
- For vetting purposes
- Through PNC?

Home Office Review

- The Home Secretary has called for a halt to the scheme whilst a review takes place to examine the feasibility of reducing the VBS to 'common sense levels'
- ACPO will seek to make recommendations to the review team
- Chief Officers will need to ensure disclosure units have an efficient structure
- PND will be key to the future of the VBS
- At present Forces MUST ensure they continue to load data sets onto both PLX and PND
- The Home Office will be carrying out a review of the public disclosure process.