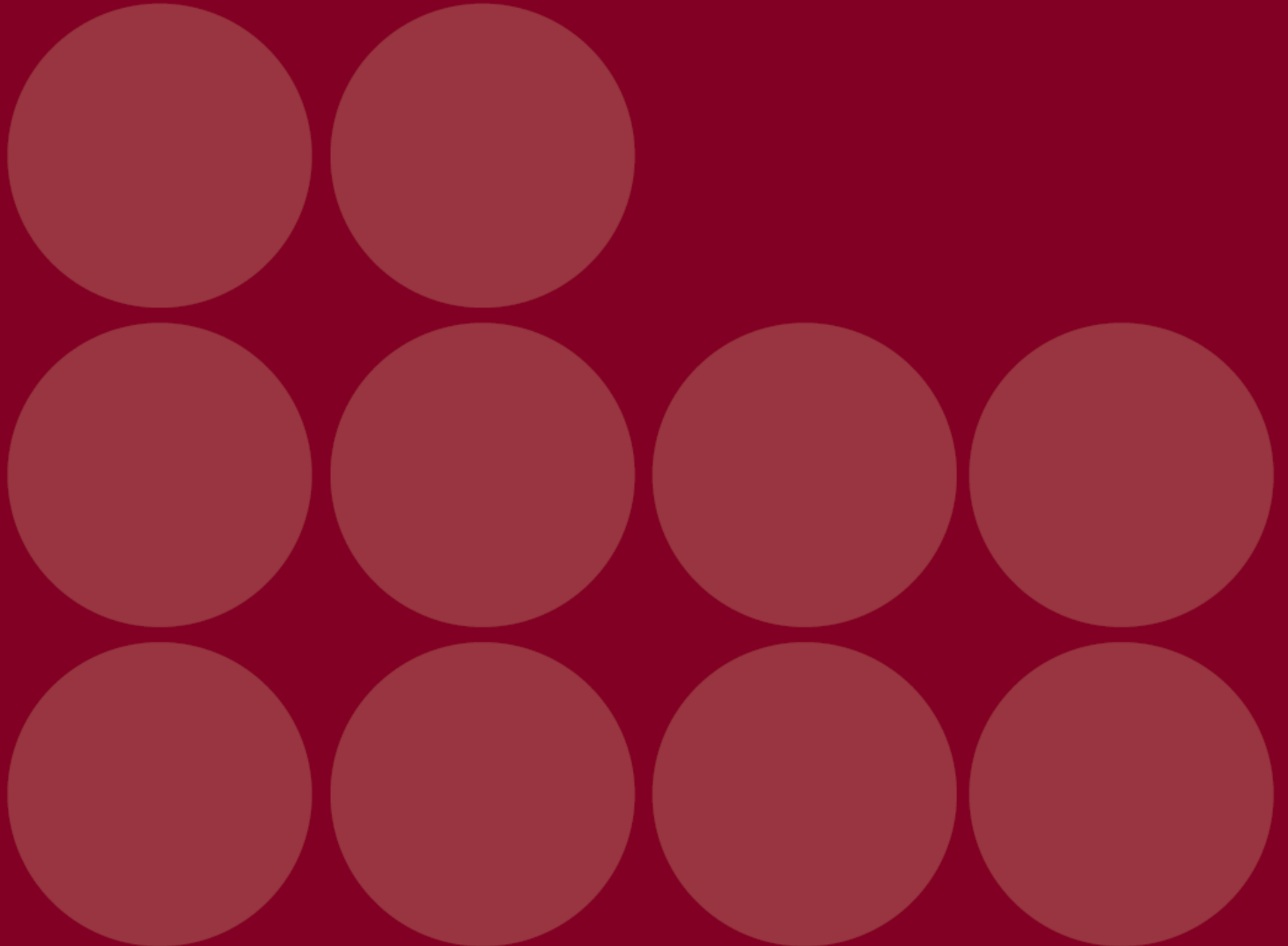




Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Scheme Update

The electronic newsletter for ISA Stakeholders

March 2008



Dear stakeholder

As you may be aware, the latest consultation on the scheme closed recently (20 February) and we are currently analysing the responses to this, with the formal Government response expected by May. If you took part, then thank you - your responses and recommendations are valuable to us.

ISA Launch date

Following discussions with HM Treasury and other key stakeholders and final Ministerial sign off, we are now able to announce the date the scheme will start processing applications, and the fee that it will cost to apply to register with the ISA.

The scheme will go live on **12 October 2009**. We have deliberated over the date and consulted key strategic partners to make sure that the date is not only feasible from an operational point of view, but that it also gives users enough time to fully prepare for the introduction of the scheme.

We are also aware that certain sectors, have registration 'high points' in the year and that we need our implementation date to be reasonable not only for these sectors, but also for the CRB which will be processing registrations to the ISA scheme.

The new 'go live' stage will be the official start date of the scheme, although preparatory work and advice and guidance will have clearly been undertaken and completed by this stage. After this date all new workers or those changing jobs (in regulated activity) will be required to register with the ISA Scheme.

Cost of Registration

The overall cost for registering with the ISA will be £64 per person. This fee consists of two elements.

The first part of the fee, which has been set as £28 will cover the following:

- **the cost of administering the registration process with the ISA;**
- **the cost of the instant online registration checking system;**
- **the cost of volunteers registering with the scheme (as they register for free); and**
- **the cost of continuous monitoring and updating whilst registered with the scheme.**

The remaining £36 will cover the CRB's costs as administrators of the applications.

It is important to remember that ISA registration will be transferable. That is, if a person were to change jobs or take up a new voluntary activity, they **would not** need to apply again.

Appointment of the new ISA Board members

We will also be announcing the members of the ISA's publicly appointed Board in the near future and trust that you'll be interested in the skills and experience that the members of this strategic group will bring with them.

Barring criteria

As you would expect we are already busy preparing for scheme launch. Preparations are well under way for the next stages of transferring case work, files and decision-making authority from the current PoVA, PoCA, List 99 and Disqualification Order systems to the ISA.

The ISA is an independent body with its own remit and the barring criteria may differ from the current regimes. This means the ISA must consider all people who are currently barred to see if they will be included on the ISA's new barred lists.

There are two key things to remember here. Firstly, the ISA scheme has a much wider remit than current provision, affecting more workers and professions than before. In fact, it will be the biggest scheme of its kind in the world when it is eventually rolled out in full. So safeguarding will be improved as more professions and specific job roles will be closed to those who are barred under the new lists.

Secondly, as the ISA is concerned with safeguarding vulnerable groups and not malpractice, it is not a simple case that all those who are on the individual lists now will be on the current lists will be on the ISA's list (for example, as with List 99).

Once the ISA has completed this 'migration' phase, and the new database has been rigorously tested, the ISA will start to receive the first batch of applications, as will be outlined in the phasing strategy. (More details on the phasing will be announced in the coming months.)

Referral Material

Alongside the case reviews, work is continuing on the creation of the new database which will amalgamate all of the referral material which comes through and we are soon to begin drafting sector-specific guidance for employers and employees to help them with the new system.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the future to ensure we implement an effective scheme that will improve safeguarding for those most vulnerable in our society.