

As a result of the Criminal Records Regime Review, the CRB will now start to develop plans to make the following changes to its service:

Changes are expected to start in 2012

- CRB certificates will be issued to the applicant only; giving them the opportunity to make representations against the information released before it is available to an organisation to consider the person's suitability;
- A method will be developed for filtering out older and minor convictions so that they will no longer be revealed on a CRB check;
- Portability of CRB checks will be enhanced; applicants will be able to consent to a new process which will continuously update their CRB check and allow employers to carry out an online status check to see if there have been any changes since their last CRB check;
- Improvements will be made to the relevancy test used to determine whether police intelligence will be printed on the CRB certificate;
- "Additional" police information (information disclosed only to the Registered Body and not printed on the CRB certificate) will be abolished;
- The CRB will offer Basic Criminal Record checks;
- The functions of the ISA and the CRB will be brought together under one new organisation. The Government sees benefits in bringing the respective, distinctive expertise and skill sets of the two organisations together to deliver these plans with the Home Office.

The Government's Freedoms Bill, published on 11th February 2011, calls for a merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority to form "a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service".

Changes published in the Freedoms Bill are expected to start in 2012

The merged organisation will provide what ministers say will be a more "proportionate" checking service for about 4.5 million people who work "**closely and regularly**" with children or vulnerable adults.

Teachers will continue to be vetted – but those who do occasional, supervised volunteer work will not.

Job applicants will also be able to see the results of their criminal record check before their prospective employer so mistakes can be corrected.

The bill also promises a "**portability of criminal records checks between jobs**" to cut down on needless bureaucracy" and to stop "employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them".