

# Public Consultation on Continuing Need for a Controlled Activity Category in the Vetting and Barring Scheme

## Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 9 July  
2010. Your comments must reach us by that date.



department for  
**children, schools and families**

**THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online response facility available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families e-consultation website (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>).**

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.**

Name

**Rebecca Williams**

Organisation (if applicable) **Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)**

Address:

**Ffordd Penglais, Aberystwyth SY23 2EU**

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Nick Smith by telephone: 020 7783 8474 or by email:

[controlledactivity.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:controlledactivity.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit by telephone: 01928 794888 or by e-mail:

[consultation.unit@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> FE College	<input type="checkbox"/> School	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Form College	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Setting	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Care
<input type="checkbox"/> CAFCASS	<input type="checkbox"/> Connexions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

Please Specify:

**Trade Union representing teachers, head-teachers, FE and HE lecturers in Wales.**

## Further Education

The Government believes that the level of risk associated with workers in FE who do frequent or intensive work that provides the opportunity for contact with children is such that this work should be classed as regulated activity.

1 Views are invited on the proposal to place those FE institutions that offer education to under-18s on the same footing as sixth form colleges and other educational institutions for the purposes of safeguarding.

Comments:

UCAC agrees whole-heartedly with the proposal to place FE institutions on the same footing as Sixth Form Colleges and other educational institutions for the purposes of safeguarding.

FE institutions have substantial, and indeed increasing, numbers of learners in the 14-18 age group. These students already receive less supervision than their peers in other educational institutions (e.g. no morning and afternoon registration; no supervision for lessons when no lecturer is available) which makes it, arguably, even more important that all adults employed at the FE institution come under the 'Regulated Activity' category, as they do in schools and Sixth Form Colleges.

2 a) If these roles were not moved into regulated activity, but all regulation were to be completely removed, would there be unacceptable safeguarding risks?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

UCAC does not believe it to be appropriate, either in terms of the safeguarding of young people, or in terms of consistency between institutions working with young people within the same age group, for the specified roles to be entirely removed from regulation.

As mentioned above, there are greater safeguarding risks for young people in FE institutions than in schools where supervision is more constant. It would be irresponsible to allow the possibility of people who are barred from Regulated Activity to be able to gain close and regular contact in an FE institution with 14-18 year olds.

2 b) Or should the category of controlled activity remain? Views are invited on this proposition.

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Controlled Activity would be preferable to no regulation at all. However, regulated activity would seem most appropriate for these categories of jobs in this particular sector.

Certainly, getting rid of Controlled Activity would simplify and streamline the overall scheme considerably.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply**

Here at the Department for Children, Schools and Families we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

All DCSF public consultations are required to conform to the following criteria within the Government Code of Practice on Consultation:

Criterion 1: Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.

Criterion 2: Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.

Criterion 3: Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.

Criterion 4: Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.

Criterion 5: Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained.

Criterion 6: Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.

Criterion 7: Officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

If you have any comments on how DCSF consultations are conducted, please contact Donna Harrison, DCSF Consultation Co-ordinator, tel: 01928 794304 / email: [donna.harrison@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:donna.harrison@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 9 July 2010

Send by post to: Safeguarding Group, Department for Children Schools and Families, Level 1  
Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1 PBT.

Send by e-mail to: [controlledactivity.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:controlledactivity.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)