

# **SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME AND POLICE ACT 2005**

---

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Part 5: Miscellaneous**

##### **Criminal record checks**

60. The current statutory arrangements for criminal record and other checks for employment vetting purposes are set out in Part 5 of the Police Act 1997. In England and Wales these checks are undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), an executive agency of the Home Office, while in Scotland they are undertaken by Disclosure Scotland. In Northern Ireland a project is currently underway to implement Part 5 of the Police Act 1997. It is intended that the Northern Ireland arrangements for conducting checks will be agreed in early summer 2005, following public consultation on proposals.
61. Separately, Sir Michael Bichard's Inquiry (June 2004, HC653) recommended (recommendations 23 and 31) improvements in the CRB's ability to cross-check a variety of databases, so as to increase the quality of its Disclosure service. Specifically, Sir Michael recommended that the CRB should be able to access information held by the UK Passport Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and others, in order better to verify the identity of applicants for Disclosures; and be able to seek non-conviction information for the purposes of Enhanced Disclosures from a wider range of police forces and other organisations than at present; and finally be able to access relevant information held in Scotland, Northern Ireland and other jurisdictions on people considered to be unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults.