

Summary: Intervention & Options

Department /Agency: Home Office	Title: Impact Assessment of amendment to Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVGA)	
Stage: Final Proposal	Version: 1.1	Date: 14 October 2008
Related Publications:		

Available to view or download at:

<http://www.>

Contact for enquiries:

Telephone:

What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

Under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act individuals working with vulnerable people will be required to register with the new vetting scheme; the effect of current provisions is that an employer wishing to check the vetting status of an employee would have to specify which category from a list that employee falls within. This is considered unnecessary as the only information to be provided by the employer is whether or not the individual is working with children, vulnerable adults, or both. The employer can then be provided with the registered status of the employee or volunteer.

What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?

To decrease the burden on employers when performing checks on employees working with vulnerable people, whilst maintaining the planned level of protection to vulnerable groups.

What policy options have been considered? Please justify any preferred option.

Option 1 - Do nothing

Option 2 -Simplify the required declaration to indicate simply that the employer is entitled to information relating to scheme membership in respect of either children or vulnerable adults; and has the consent of the applicant/member of the scheme.

The preferred option is option 2 as this removes the need for employers to consider and state which of the specified entries listed their employee falls under, decreasing the burden on employers, whilst not increasing costs to government and maintaining the planned level of protection offered to vulnerable groups.

When will the policy be reviewed to establish the actual costs and benefits and the achievement of the desired effects? The policy and its effects will be reviewed at an appropriate point in the future.

Ministerial Sign-off For final proposal/implementation stage Impact Assessments:

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that (a) it represents a fair and reasonable view of the expected costs, benefits and impact of the policy, and (b) the benefits justify the costs.

Signed by the responsible Minister:

..... Date:

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Policy Option: 1

Description: Simplify the required declaration.

COSTS	ANNUAL COSTS		Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups' None
	One-off (Transition)	Yrs	
	£ 0		
	Average Annual Cost (excluding one-off)		
	£ 0		Total Cost (PV) £ 0
Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups' Legislation Required			

BENEFITS	ANNUAL BENEFITS		Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' Decrease the burden on employers. Using the Standard Cost Model (Saved Wages x Volume) these measures will potentially save employers £0.22 per instance, with 11.3m instances expected over the first 5 years of the new scheme, totaling a saving of £2,252,185.44.
	One-off	Yrs	
	£ 0	5	
	Average Annual Benefit (excluding one-off)		
	£ 496,522		Total Benefit (PV) £ 2,252,185.44
Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups' None			

Key Assumptions/Sensitivities/Risks None

Price Base Year 2005	Time Period Years 5	Net Benefit Range (NPV) £	NET BENEFIT (NPV Best estimate) £ 2,252,185.44
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What is the geographic coverage of the policy/option?			England and Wales		
On what date will the policy be implemented?			October 2009		
Which organisation(s) will enforce the policy?			N/A		
What is the total annual cost of enforcement for these organisations?			£ None		
Does enforcement comply with Hampton principles?			Yes		
Will implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?			N/A		
What is the value of the proposed offsetting measure per year?			£ N/A		
What is the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions?			£ N/A		
Will the proposal have a significant impact on competition?			No		
Annual cost (£-£) per organisation (excluding one-off)		Micro	Small	Medium	Large
Are any of these organisations exempt?		No	No	N/A	N/A

Impact on Admin Burdens Baseline (2005 Prices)			(Increase - Decrease)	
Increase of	£ 0	Decrease of	£ 496,522	Net Impact £ -496,522

Key: Annual costs and benefits: Constant Prices (Net) Present Value

Evidence Base (for summary sheets)

[Use this space (with a recommended maximum of 30 pages) to set out the evidence, analysis and detailed narrative from which you have generated your policy options or proposal. Ensure that the information is organised in such a way as to explain clearly the summary information on the preceding pages of this form.]

Rationale

Individuals working with vulnerable people will be required to register with the government's new vetting and barring scheme. Under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act the effect of current provisions is that an employer wishing to check the vetting status of an employee would have to specify which category from a list that employee falls within. This is considered unnecessary as the only information needed to be provided by the employer is whether or not the individual is working with children, vulnerable adults or both.

Objectives

To decrease the burden on employers when performing checks on employees working with vulnerable people, whilst maintaining the current planned level of protection offered to vulnerable people.

Options

Option 1 - Do nothing

Keeping the status-quo would mean that when the SVGA Act commences employers would have to specify which of the entries in Schedule 7 of the Act an employee falls within; an unnecessary burden.

Option 2 -Simplify the required declaration to indicate simply that the employer is entitled to information relating to scheme membership in respect of either children or vulnerable adults; and has the consent of the applicant/member of the scheme.

Benefits

The possible benefit of this option is the decreased burden on employers filling out the form. The time they will save if this option is implemented could be used to do something else, therefore an opportunity cost exists. A monetised figure can be estimated using the Standard Cost Model.

(Saved Wages x Volume)

The Office of National Statistics provides the average wage across the UK workforce in 2005 prices, in line with Admin Burdens Baseline calculations. This figure is £10.14, 30% added to account for costs on the employer such as pension contributions, totalling £13.182 per hour.

The time saved by simplifying the declaration has been estimated at 1 minute. This estimation was performed by the individuals responsible for the SVGA policy and design of the relevant form.

The number of unique instances that this time would be saved is based upon existing estimates of entrants to the scheme. This is equal to 11.3m over the first 5 years.

Potential savings to employers over the 5 year period are £2,482,610.00, with annual average savings equalling £496,522.00.

Costs

Primary legislation required.

Reccomendation

The preferred option is option 2 as this removes the need for employers to state which of the specified entries listed their employee falls under, decreasing the burden on employers, whilst not increasing costs to government and maintaining the current level of protection of vulnerable groups.

Specific Impact Tests: Checklist

Use the table below to demonstrate how broadly you have considered the potential impacts of your policy options.

Ensure that the results of any tests that impact on the cost-benefit analysis are contained within the main evidence base; other results may be annexed.

Type of testing undertaken	<i>Results in Evidence Base?</i>	<i>Results annexed?</i>
Competition Assessment	No	No
Small Firms Impact Test	No	No
Legal Aid	No	No
Sustainable Development	No	No
Carbon Assessment	No	No
Other Environment	No	No
Health Impact Assessment	No	No
Race Equality	No	No
Disability Equality	No	No
Gender Equality	No	No
Human Rights	No	No
Rural Proofing	No	No

Annexes

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
Average Wage / hr £	13.182	13.182	13.182	13.182	13.182
Per Minute	0.2197	0.2197	0.2197	0.2197	0.2197
Time saved per instance (mins)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Benefit per instance £	0.2197	0.2197	0.2197	0.2197	0.2197
No. of unique instances	1,800,000.0000	2,500,000.0000	2,500,000.0000	2,500,000.0000	2,000,000.0000
Admin Decrease	395,460.00	549,250.00	549,250.00	549,250.00	439,400.00
PV	395,460.00	512,730.75	495,392.03	478,639.64	369,963.01

	£
Total	2,482,610.00
NPV	2,252,185.44
Annual Average	496,522.00

Average Earnings	10.14
30 % increase for pensions etc	13.182