



Briefing Note

Volunteer Vetting Clarification

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What The Crime & Policing Act Actually Changed

The Act introduced:

Expanded eligibility for barred list checks

Schools can now request a barred list check for **more categories of volunteers**, if the role meets the threshold for regulated activity.

Stronger expectations around volunteer vetting

The Act pushes schools to be more cautious, especially where volunteers have:

- repeated contact
- responsibility for children
- unsupervised moments
- roles that could drift into regulated activity

What Did Not Change

The Act did not rewrite the definition of regulated activity.

A volunteer is only in regulated activity if they:

- are **unsupervised**,
- or their role is **frequent, intensive**, or **overnight**,
- or they provide **personal care**,
- or they are in a position giving them **sole responsibility** for children.

This means:

Supervised, one-off volunteers are still not eligible for a barred list check.

So What Do Schools Do Now For One-Off Volunteers?

They complete a written volunteer risk assessment

This is now **non-negotiable** under KCSIE + Crime & Policing Act expectations.

It must cover:

- nature of the trip
- supervision arrangements

- volunteer role
- opportunities for unsupervised contact
- age/vulnerability of pupils

They ensure continuous, meaningful supervision

This is the legal safeguard that keeps the role out of regulated activity.

They do not request a DBS or barred list check

Unless the volunteer's role crosses into regulated activity.

They provide a volunteer conduct briefing

Including:

- no 1:1 situations
- no toileting
- no taking children off alone
- no physical contact unless necessary
- boundaries and reporting expectations

They record the volunteer as a visitor, not staff

They do **not** go on the SCR unless a DBS is obtained.

When Would A One-Off Volunteer Need A Barred List Check?

Only if the trip involves:

- **Residential/overnight stays**
- **Volunteer leading a group alone**
- **Volunteer driving children**
- **Volunteer supervising toileting or personal care**
- **Volunteer providing specialist instruction unsupervised**

In these cases, the role becomes **regulated activity**, and the school must obtain:

- **Enhanced DBS**
- **Children's barred list check**

The Non-Obvious Insight

The Crime & Policing Act has made schools more cautious, but it has **not removed the supervision exemption**.

The supervision test is still the legal gateway:

- If supervision is **reasonable, continuous, and by DBS-checked staff**,
- the volunteer is **not** in regulated activity,
- therefore, **barred list checks are not permitted**.

Schools cannot legally run barred list checks on people who are not in regulated activity.