

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency

DATE: 11th June 2010



Fiona Bruce speaks for first time in House of Commons and asks for Criminal Records Bureau Check system to be overhauled.

Fiona Bruce in her first question in the House of Commons on 9th June asked for a full review of the Criminal Records Bureau check systems to be undertaken by the Cabinet Office.

Speaking in the Chamber Fiona said:

“The requirements for people to obtain more than one Criminal Records Bureau check when working or volunteering with different community organisations is causing much duplication and expense, both to individuals and to community groups such as Crossroads Care Cheshire East in my Constituency.

Will the Minister consider reviewing the CRB check procedure and introducing one single, register able, and transferable check for each individual?”

In response the Cabinet Office Minister Nick Hurd MP said

“I welcome my Hon. Friend to the House...The point she makes is extremely important and frustration has been expressed to me by a number of voluntary organisations. In the Coalition Agreement the Government are committed to reviewing the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and I will make sure that the relevant Minister in the Home Office is aware of her concerns.”

Speaking in the Constituency, Fiona Bruce said,

“Many community groups and voluntary organisations across Congleton, Alsager, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel, and Sandbach, have expressed how inefficient and cumbersome they feel the current system is. One volunteer in Sandbach told me that he has had to get four contemporaneous checks to work with four different organisations. Crossroads Care Cheshire East told me, as have many other

charities and community groups that obtaining these checks can delay the start of work or volunteering of people who want to do so. In other cases I am aware of volunteers being completely put off getting involved in the very valuable community work which our Constituency so needs and enjoys, simply because of the CRB check procedure. This has to change and I am pleased to be a part of a Government that wants to do away with unnecessary regulatory burdens on community organisations.”

ENDS