



**Press Release following Theresa May's Statement of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Tutors' Alliance Believes Government Decision to Halt Vetting and Barring Scheme Puts Children at Risk**

Tutors' Alliance's Managing Director, Valerie Kemp has expressed her disappointment at the government's decision to halt the introduction of a Vetting and Barring Scheme, due to be implemented from this summer. The announcement by Theresa May that a review will take place, followed by a scaled-down version of the previous plans, leaves wide gaps in Child Protection. This poses a risk to children, particularly within the tuition industry.

At present, private tutors are under no obligation to possess an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau or Disclosure Scotland. This means that anyone can set up as a tutor, putting children at risk. A prime example is the recent case of [Ugochukwu Okorie](#). The lead officer in that case, DC John Knox advised parents to vet private tutors as a result. Although the new Vetting and Barring scheme would not have made it mandatory for private tutors to register, it would have made it easier for those self-employed tutors wishing to show their professionalism by registering. In addition, the problem with the current system is that the Enhanced Disclosure is simply a "snapshot" of a person's convictions at a certain moment in time and therefore is not a continuing statement of the person's suitability to work with children. This announcement sends out the wrong message to the industry, prioritising civil liberties at the expense of protecting children. Children's welfare must be the paramount consideration and it must be remembered that the Vetting and Barring Scheme was conceived following a thorough review of child protection after the Soham tragedy.

The current situation within the tuition industry is untenable. Tutors' Alliance firmly believes that it is essential that tutors are subject to regulation and that the government must require the mandatory registration of tutors with any vetting scheme open to tutors, such as the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

Tutors' Alliance would advise any parent looking for a private tutor to ensure that the tutor has an Enhanced Disclosure from the CRB or Disclosure Scotland. Tutors' Alliance provides detailed advice to parents, free of charge via the website [www.tutorsalliance.co.uk](http://www.tutorsalliance.co.uk) or by calling 01224 433163.

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Any queries in relation to the above are to be addressed to Valerie Kemp at Tutors' Alliance ([valerie@tutorsalliance.co.uk](mailto:valerie@tutorsalliance.co.uk) or 01224 433163).