

Government Taskforce to cut red tape for charities

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Nick Hurd, the Minister of Civil Society, responsible for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office, has said a joint task force with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be set up to consider how red tape for small organisations can be cut.

Speaking at Cabinet Office questions on 9 June 2010, he said ‘_one of our priorities is to make it easier to run a voluntary organisation, so we are committed to clearing the thicket of bureaucracy that too often gets in the way of doing good.’

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In relation to the expense and administration involved for volunteers required to obtain different CRB checks for different organisations, he said that ‘*the Government are committed to reviewing the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and I will be following that review very closely.*’ As a consequence, the Independent Safeguarding Authority’s Vetting and Barring Scheme has been halted (the first phase of registration was due to commence on 26 July this year).

There was meanwhile no signal that the Compact’s role would be diminished, with Nick Hurd calling it ‘*an important framework for the relationship between the state and the sector at a very important time in its development.*’ He indicated the governments’ aim for the sector to work more closely with the state in public service delivery and acknowledged that ‘_the Compact has an important part to play in making sure that that relationship works productively.’

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