

**EDINBURGH, LOTHIAN and BORDERS  
BRANCH** (a charity registered in Scotland No:  
SC009110)

To: Branch Committee/Trustees

Dear Colleagues

*Branch Addendum to 'RAFA Safeguarding' Policy*

During our current Introduction to Good Governance assessment; it has been brought to my attention that our current position with regard to 'Branch Helpers/Visitors' i.e., not currently members of the 'The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG)' is not compliant.

You will be aware that we have been waiting for clarification on this matter from The Association for some time; however, meantime I propose the following branch policy:

*That with immediate effect and pending any further decisions/guidance by The Association; current Branch Helpers/Visitors cease delivery of this local branch service". As it would appear that this service is no longer supported by The Association, continuation could have consequences in relation to reputational risk and insurance cover.*

- a) *This will not apply to those branch members who are currently trained/accredited RAFA Caseworkers or Befrienders, and currently compliant with regard to PVG membership (via Area Welfare Manager).*
- b) *It would be my view that any branch member who wishes to visit 'a friend that is a member of the RAF Family' will be able to do so, but as a private individual – not representing the branch or The Association.*
- c) *In relation to b) above; should a visit identify any concerns that may be construed as 'welfare related', these concerns should be reported to the Branch Honorary Welfare Officer as soon as possible.*
- d) *That any references to 'Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)' be deemed to refer to 'The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG)' which applies in Scotland.*

*Bob Bertram MBE*

Chairman

14 November 2019

VERSION	DATE	ACTION	REASON	PERSON
1.1	Jan 2022	Review	Review	Dave Prior