

Disclosure Scotland – Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Information -

The PVG scheme is now a legal requirement to better protect vulnerable groups in Scotland.

From 1 April 2025, membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme became a legal requirement in Scotland. Any individual who is to carry out a regulated role (paid or voluntary) with children, protected adults or both, must be a member of the PVG scheme, prior to carrying out that role.

What this means for the RNLI?

The below roles have been reviewed and in line with the legislative changes are deemed as regulated roles therefore there is a legal requirement to complete a PVG check prior to carrying out the role. Line managers of anyone working or volunteering in a regulated role will be required to complete a PVG check.

Role	Line Manager	Level of PVG Check
Casualty Care Volunteer/employee	Lifeboat Operations Manager/equivalent	PVG with Childrens and Adults
Water Safety Adviser	Water Safety Officer	PVG with Children
Water Safety Officer	Regional Water Safety	PVG with Children
Lifeboat Visits Officer	Lifeboat Operations Manager	PVG with Children
Lifeboat Visits Officer (Engagement)	Regional Engagement Lead	PVG with Children
Lifeboat Visits Team Member (Engagement)	Regional Engagement Lead	PVG with Children
Lifeboat Medical Adviser	Lifeboat Operations Manager	PVG with Adults
Regional Medical Adviser	Regional Operations Lead	PVG with Adults
Lifeguards	All operational lifeguards	PVG with Children for all lifeguard grades

What is a regulated role and what is regulated activity?

Regulated roles are roles that meet certain criteria. They often involve work with children or protected adults, or positions of power or influence over these groups.

For more information, visit <https://www.mygov.scot/activities-for-regulated-roles>

What if I have completed my PVG application but it has not been processed?

You will not be able to undertake specific functions of the role linked to the PVG check. This is not an exhaustive list, but examples include:

- If you are a casualty care volunteer you will not be able to participate in the provision of any of the regulated aspects of casualty care that have specialist training above general first aid, such as administering drugs, but you can participate in other functions that do not involve regulated activity..

- If you are a Visits Officer – you will not be able to lead and oversee a visit to RNLI premises. You can support a visit, but you must be accompanied at all times by a volunteer or staff member that has been PVG checked to the level listed above.
- If you are a Water Safety Education Advisor, Officer or staff member who attends education establishments, you will not be able to participate in this activity until your PVG check has been processed and returned. Unless you are a Water Safety Education Adviser, Officer or Water Safety Staff member, you are unable to attend education establishments.

What happens if there is a Positive Disclosure on my PVG Check?

You will be asked to provide consent by the counter signatory to view the content of the PVG return. The counter signatory will inform the Safeguarding Team and where applicable a nominated people representative. All information will be kept confidential in line with Data Protection and information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis. Dependent on the disclosure, you may be contacted by the Safeguarding Team. A decision on next steps will then be made and you will be notified. Each case will be treated independently on a case-by-case basis.

What if I don't want to complete a PVG Check?

To perform any of the roles above you must complete a PVG Check, this is a legal requirement. You will not be able to continue in any of the roles above should you choose not to complete your PVG check.

Do I only need to complete a PVG Check once?

No, if you remain in a regulated role, you will be required to complete a PVG Check every three years.

I have received my PVG Check, however I now no longer want to participate in a regulated role, can I still volunteer?

Yes, if there are available volunteering opportunities this can be discussed with your staff line manager.

What if I hold another role, but I am asked to help with a regulated role?

If you are registered in a role not listed above, you cannot undertake or perform any of the specific regulated activity linked to the above roles even if you are asked to do so.

What if I am a first aider or encounter a life-or-death situation?

We all have a responsibility to help preserve life in an emergency and this is different to holding a role, such as casualty carer, which has very specific training, including administering drugs. The role of First Aider has a lower level of training and is not classed as regulated activity, so does not require a PVG.

Whose responsibility is it to ensure we comply?

It is everyone's responsibility. We all have a responsibility to ensure we do not compromise ourselves or others, to deviate or provide allowances against the legal requirements. Failure to adhere to this may lead to disciplinary or problem-solving processes, and potentially even legal action.

I'm a Counter Signatory what does that mean?

As a Counter Signatory you have been granted delegated authority by the RNLI and Disclosure Scotland to verify someone's PVG application. You will be required to seek consent from anyone who receives a positive disclosure, and you will be responsible for ensuring this is sought. You will be responsible for ensuring the relevant information is viewed and shared with the Safeguarding Team at the earliest opportunity.

You will have an ongoing Counter Signatory role in the onboarding of new volunteers or staff members who will require a PVG Check at the point of recruitment.