

National Security Vetting solution update – 22/09/2016

On 2 August Defence Business Services National Security Vetting (DBS NSV) confirmed that the launch of the National Security Vetting Solution (NSVS) would be delayed whilst a number of technical issues were addressed.

A new schedule for go-live has been agreed and we will deliver NSVS on Monday 10 October 2016.

Timeline

Access to both portals will be suspended at 17:00 on Thursday 22 September to allow time for outstanding data to transfer into Cerberus and will be unavailable for 11 working days until 10 October. There are clear messages on the portals to remind Subjects and Sponsors to complete any initiated applications prior to portal closure.

Decision makers will be unable to access Cerberus from 17.00 Wednesday 28 September and will have no capacity to receive, administer or complete any vetting applications. Access to NSVS will commence during Monday 10 October 2016.

Portal Users

Subjects and Sponsors will be unable to access the portal whilst the data is being transferred. Applications where both the Subject and the Sponsor sections have been submitted prior to the transition period will be held securely until NSVS goes live, at which point full portal access will be available.

Cerberus Users

In addition, all users of the Case Management System (CMS) will be unable to update or record vetting decisions on Cerberus. All current users will retain 'read only' access to Cerberus but any attempt to update the system will not be saved and the data cannot be retrieved once NSVS goes live.

Thursday 22 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•17:00 Portal access suspended for all users;•Applications not fully completed (by both subject and sponsor) at 17:00 will be deleted and cannot be retrieved;•Applications successfully submitted will be stored securely until NSVS goes live.
Wednesday 28 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•15:00 Interfaces for external checks suspended;•18:00 Snapshot taken of Cerberus database - any changes to Cerberus from this point will not be carried forward into NSVS.
Thursday 29 and Friday 30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Commence NSVS Case Management System (CMS) checks and tests.
Saturday 01- Wednesday 05 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Cerberus users unable to receive, administer or record vetting decisions;•Users can view CMS to conduct manual vetting enquiries but actions will not be saved and cannot be retrieved;•Enquiry Centre Staff will be available to assist with a range of enquiries;
Thursday 06 - Sunday 09 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•External interfaces proven in Live•NSVS system optimisation work - staff will commence casework activities;•Phased access to NSVS will commence for DBS staff
Monday 10 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•11:30 onwards OGD Decision Maker access enabled;•13:00 onwards Portal access available to all Subject and Sponsor users.

Action required prior to 22 September

As before, we ask for Sponsor support to ensure that every Subject who is about to embark on the vetting process understands the requirement to fully complete and submit their security questionnaire via the portal before 17:00 on Thursday 22 September 2016. Additionally, clear messages will be added to the portal homepage to remind users of the deadline for submission.

If a Subject is unable to collate all the information required to successfully submit their form before this date then Sponsors are requested to refrain from initiating their portal application until NSVS goes live, after which time normal service will resume. Any applications not fully completed and submitted by both the Subject and the Sponsor by 17:00 on 22 September will be lost and cannot be retrieved. All applications successfully submitted into Cerberus will be held securely whilst the data is migrated to NSVS and will not need to be resubmitted.

Contingency

DBS NSV will continue to accept immediate and priority applications during the transition period. All applications of this nature should be supported with a business case and approved by the relevant authorising body.

Immediate and priority cases, once approved, will be processed manually by a dedicated team. Applications should be lodged on forms NSV001 or NSV002 and sent, via email, to DBS-NSV-ApplicationsTeam@mod.uk. This email address will only be monitored during the transition period and should not be used to contact DBS NSV for any other purpose.

During the transition period there will be no capacity to process routine casework – all routine casework held within Cerberus will be securely stored and migrated to NSVS. Normal processing will resume when NSVS goes live.