

# **ILPA** information sheet

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An archive of information sheets is available at [www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html](http://www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html)

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## **UK Border Agency website – archive**

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This information sheet provides information about the archive of the UK Border Agency website. The archive is available online. It allows people to look at the website (and its contents) as it stood as at particular dates in the past.

### **Why the archive is useful**

The UK Border Agency website contains a wide range of information about immigration matters. It includes information about making immigration applications, the immigration rules and the policies and guidance used by the UK Border Agency in deciding applications and carrying out its immigration functions. The website also includes various reports, impact assessments and consultation papers.

However, the contents of the website are frequently changed. The immigration rules, policies and guidance are frequently changed. New reports, impact assessments and consultation papers are added, and sometimes (e.g. following changes of Government) removed. Sometimes the structure of the website is changed (e.g. consultation papers are now located in a different part of the website to where they were located in 2010). Generally, the website is intended to provide up to date information. However, sometimes it is useful (even necessary) to know what was the position in the past – e.g. when an application was first made, or a decision by the UK Border Agency was first taken.

### **The period covered by the archive**

The archive of the UK Border Agency website goes back to August 2008.

### **How the archive works**

From time to time, ‘a snapshot’ of the UK Border Agency website is saved as part of the archive. This means that for each of the dates on which a snapshot is taken (“snapshot dates”), it is possible to look at the website and see what was there as at that particular date.

### **How to access and use the archive**

Not all the sections and pages of the website change as frequently as others. This means there are more snapshot dates for some sections and pages than others. The homepage has the most number of snapshot dates. It is best, therefore, to either always use the snapshot dates available for the homepage, or look for the snapshot dates of the particular section or page that is of interest to you. The archive can be accessed at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/\\*/http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/*/http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/)

The above link takes you to the page listing all the snapshot dates available for the homepage. If you select (i.e. click on) any one of these dates it will take you to the homepage of the UK Border Agency website as it was on that particular date. If, from there, you navigate around the website, it will take you to the various pages of the website as at that date.

**NOTE:** When in the archive, you will see that on each page of the website there is a standard heading at the top of the page (usually in red), which states the date of the website at which you are looking. It also includes a link “[See all dates available for this archived website](#)”, which will take you to a page at which you can select from all the snapshot dates of the particular section or page at which you are looking.

An alternative way to access the archive is via the current UK Border Agency website. The “closed consultations” page in the Policy and Law section provides a link “[UK government web archive](#)”. If you access the archive from here, it will usually be best to then go to the homepage before selecting a snapshot date. This should give you the widest range of snapshot dates and avoid the possibility of missing a snapshot date that may be available for one section or page but not for another (e.g. a snapshot date available for certain policies, but not available for consultations).

Essentially, once you have accessed the archive in either of the ways described here, you can use the archived website in the same way you would use the current website. Always remember that the snapshot date you are looking at is displayed at the top of the page.

**NOTE:** The archive only shows the information and contents that were available on the UK Border Agency website. Sometimes, the UK Border Agency operates policies and concessions that are not made public on the website. It cannot be assumed, therefore, that there was no relevant policy or concession simply because there is none shown in the archive for any particular snapshot date.

#### **Examples of how the archive may be used:**

Mary made an immigration application on 20 December 2011. She has not yet received a decision. The immigration rules and UK Border Agency policies have changed since the time she made her application. However, her application is required to be decided on the basis of the immigration rules as at the time she made her application. Any concessions in UK Border Agency policies at the time she made her application may also apply to her. Mary wants to check that the decision she receives is in accordance with the immigration rules and the policies as at 20 December 2011. Her legal representative can do this by selecting the 22 December 2011 snapshot date, and then looking at the Policy and Law section of the UK Border Agency website as it was on that date.

On 16 June 2009, David received a decision that he must leave the UK. He has disputed that decision, and although the UK Border Agency agreed to consider further information from him (and spent several years considering that information), it has now decided to take further steps to remove him from the UK and has set removal directions. David intends to challenge this recent decision (e.g. by judicial review). One of the grounds of his challenge is that the original decision (in 2009) was not in accordance with the immigration rules and UK Border Agency policies at that time. David’s legal representative can check the immigration rules and policies on the UK Border Agency website as at 16 June 2009 by selecting the 17 June 2009 snapshot date, and then looking at the Policy and Law section of the UK Border Agency website as it was on that date.

#### **Immigration Rules archive**

A recent change to the current UK Border Agency website is to include a section with copies of archived versions of the Immigration Rules. A ‘snapshot’ is taken of the Immigration Rules before changes are made. These snapshots can be found at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/archive-of-ir/>