

ILPA immigration update 42

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Students

There have recently been several changes to the Immigration Rules affecting students and educational bodies sponsoring students to study in the UK. These changes mean that the March 2010 "Students" information no longer contains reliable information. Current information is provided by the "Students 3" and "Points Based System – Sponsors (Tier 4)" information sheets.

Relatives of Points Based System migrants

The "Points Based System – Dependants" information sheet provides current information about relatives of Points Based System migrants (students and workers).

Asylum Screening Unit

The "Making Asylum Claims 2" information sheet should be read with last month's "Making Asylum Claims" information sheet. It highlights that the UK Border Agency is now seeking to take information by telephone from asylum-seekers before they come to the Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon. It gives details of the information that asylum-seekers (or their representatives) may be asked for if they wish to make an appointment to claim asylum at the Unit.

Family Returns

On 5 September 2011, the UK Border Agency announced the opening of its new pre-departure accommodation (CEDARS) at which families may be detained prior to removal, see:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/september/02-new-accommodation-opens>

Information was provided by the August 2011 "Detention of Children 5" information sheet. Since then, the UK Border Agency has written to ILPA to say that families will have access to telephones to contact legal advisers and legal visits will be available at CEDARS between 9am and 9pm everyday (and outside these hours in emergency).

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

HM Inspectorate of Prisons has published two reports on inspections of removals to Jamaica and Nigeria, and a report on HMP Long Lartin in which foreign nationals suspected of terrorist involvement are held under immigration or extradition laws. The reports are available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-prisons/>

Legal Aid Bill

The Public Bill Committee has now had three sittings considering the provisions in the Bill. It has finished considering all the civil Legal Aid provisions. The Government has made only one immigration-related concession to date – that it will make some provision for Legal Aid for some victims of domestic violence. It has not acted on this yet. Meanwhile, the debates in Committee on the Bill have generally avoided immigration matters.