

# **ILPA** immigration update 45

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## **Legal Aid Bill**

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is nearing its final stages of consideration in the House of Lords. On 5 and 7 March 2012 the Lords will be debating the legal aid aspects of this Bill, which will be one of the last chances to make changes before the Bill is passed. The Government has recently amended the Bill so that in future the UK Border Agency may consider all spent (as well as unspent) criminal convictions in making decisions on a person's immigration status. More information about this amendment is available from the "Rehabilitation of Offenders" information sheet.

## **Immigration Fees**

The Government intends to increase fees for many immigration and nationality applications from 6 April 2012. More information is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/february/21-new-immigration-fees-proposed>

## **Biometric Residence Permits**

From 29 February 2012, the UK Border Agency intends to require all those in the UK applying for leave to remain for a period of more than six months to provide biometric information (fingerprints and a digital facial photograph). Limited information is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/60-brp>

## **Students**

It is intended that there will be further changes affecting migrant students from 6 April 2012, introducing further restriction on who may come to study in the UK. More information is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/february/27-new-student-rules>

## **Points Based System**

There have been several recent statements about developments in the Points Based System, see:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/february/24-tier-1>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/59-tier1-extension>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/57-tier25-online-clarification>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/february/24-tier25-online>

## **Libyan nationals in the UK**

On 1 February 2012, the UK Border Agency withdrew special arrangements it had introduced for Libyan nationals seeking to extend their leave to remain in the UK. More information is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/january/90-libya-visa-update1>