

ILPA immigration update 48

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Justice and Security Bill

The Justice and Security Bill has begun its parliamentary passage in the House of Lords. It will have its Second Reading in the Lords on 19 June 2012. The Bill greatly extends the use of court and tribunal procedures where information relied upon by the Government is kept secret from the person against whom it is to be used. This includes in immigration cases, such as where the Home Secretary says it would be harmful to the public interest to disclose the information but relies upon it to refuse a person's application to naturalise or register as a British citizen. More information on this Bill is provided by the "Justice and Security Bill" information sheet.

Crime and Courts Bill

This Bill has now had its Second Reading. It greatly extends immigration officers' powers while removing or restricting appeal rights in certain immigration cases. More information on this Bill is provided by the "Crime and Courts Bill" information sheet.

- The "Family Visit Visa Appeals" information sheet provides information related to clause 24 of the Bill, by which it is intended to remove the right of appeal against a refusal of a visa to visit family in the UK.
- The "MK (Tunisia) Judgment" information sheet provides information related to clause 25 of the Bill, by which it is intended to take away the right to bring an appeal in-country if the Home Secretary takes away someone's leave to remain while that person is outside the UK.

Guidance on checking permission to work

On 7 June 2012, the UK Border Agency announced new guidance to employers on how to check whether someone has permission to work. See further at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/june/05-illegal-guidance>

Inspection of UK Border Agency and UK Border Force

In April 2012, the Chief Inspector of the Borders and Immigration (formerly known as the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency) published his plan for inspecting the UK Border Agency and UK Border Force during the year 2012/2013. More information is available at:

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/chief-inspector-publishes-2012-13-inspection-plan/>

Children

In May 2012, the Coram Children's Legal Centre published a report on access to immigration advice and information for children and young people. The report is available at:

http://www.seekingsupport.co.uk/images/navigating_the_system_final.pdf

Also in May 2012, the Refugee Council published a report on detention of child asylum-seekers. The report is available at:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/Not%20a%20minor%20offence.pdf>