



# immigration update 3

## **UK Borders Bill**

The Bill has passed from the House of Commons to the House of Lords. Before leaving the Commons, the Government strengthened powers to search for nationality documents and deport those convicted of crime in the UK.

In preparation for these new search powers, the Home Office is conducting a pilot by which those arrested and taken to a police station in the London Boroughs of Hillingdon, Waltham Forest and Westminster will be asked new questions about their nationality and passport.

The next key step for the Bill will be the debate at Second Reading in the Lords on 13 July.

## **Age Dispute Research**

Last week, ILPA published research and findings on age disputes. These are cases where either the Home Office or social services contest the age of an asylum-seeker – usually where they say he or she is over 18 years.

The full report is available at: <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/publications/ILPA%20Age%20Dispute%20Report.pdf>; and the executive summary is at: <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/publications/Executive%20Summary%20Age%20Dispute.pdf>

An “Age Dispute Research” information sheet will also be available shortly.

## **Illegal Working**

On 15 May, the Home Office launched a consultation on measures to tackle illegal working. The Home Office believe tackling illegal working is key to immigration control.

The consultation paper is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/currentconsultations> It gives more detail of what the Home Office want to do and why. It also introduces two proposed Codes of Practice.

The consultation period closes on 7 August. An “Illegal Working Measures” information sheet on the consultation will be available shortly.

## **Marriage in the UK**

In 2005, the Home Office imposed a requirement that immigrants must receive Home Office permission before they can marry in the UK.

Last year, the High Court ruled that this requirement was unlawful because it was an unjustified restriction of the right to marry. Last week, the Court of Appeal agreed with that decision.

An information sheet on the “Right to Marry Judgment” will be available shortly.

## **Legacy Cases**

This continues to generate widespread interest and concern.

There has recently been a change of responsibility for legacy cases at the Home Office. In the meantime, no new information is available beyond that in the “Legacy Cases” information sheet.

However, it is clear there is much confusion. It should be noted that having your case treated as a legacy case gives no reason to think your chances of being granted permission to stay in the UK are improved.

## **Domestic Violence**

The Immigration Rules set out circumstances where a victim of domestic violence may be able to obtain indefinite leave to remain. A recent Court of Appeal judgment provides important guidance on the evidence required in such cases.

A “Domestic Violence Judgment” information sheet will be available shortly.

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## **ILPA information service**

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[www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html](http://www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html)

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