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UK Borders Bill

The Bill received its Second Reading in the Lords on 13 June. It then past through six sessions of a Grand Committee in which the Lords scrutinised each clause.

The Bill remains largely unchanged because when in Grand Committee, no amendment can succeed unless it is unanimously accepted. However, the Government have included a new clause to provide for a code of practice to be adopted so that the Border and Immigration Agency will have regard to the safety of children.

The Bill will return to the Lords for report and third reading in October. At that time, there will be further opportunity for amendments to be debated and voted upon. ILPA briefings on the Bill are available on our website at:
<http://www.ilpa.org.uk/briefings.html>

Simplification Bill

On 6 June, the Border and Immigration Agency announced a consultation on the Simplification Bill. This will be the next major immigration Bill. It will be of great importance because it is intended to both consolidate and simplify asylum and immigration legislation.

The consultation paper is available at:
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/6356/17715/immigrationlawconsultation>

Responses to the consultation must be received by 29 August. Please see the "Simplification Bill" information sheet for more details.

BIA Business Plan

The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) has published its first business plan for the year 2007/08. The plan is available at:
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/businessplan0708.pdf>
An executive summary is available at:
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/businessplanexecsummary.pdf>

Foreign National Prisoners

The Home Office have made available a report by Stuart Hyde, Assistant Chief Constable in the West Midlands Police, formerly a Senior Director at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND).

The report provides a review of IND failure to consider deportation for just over 1,000 foreign national prisoners. A copy of the report is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/foreignnationals>

Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill

The Government introduced this Bill on 26 June. Second Reading of this Bill in the Commons will be in October.

The Bill introduces a new immigration status. Anyone granted this status will be subjected to severe restrictions. More on this is available from the "Special Immigration Status" information sheet.

Section 9 Evaluation

In 2004, the Government introduced powers to coerce asylum-seeking families, whose claims had been finally rejected, to make voluntary departures.

The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 provided for housing and welfare support to cease for these families. Social services departments were to be precluded from supporting the family, and left with the option of separating children from the family by taking them into care in order to avoid the effects of the family's destitution.

The Government decided to pilot these measures and conduct an evaluation. A summary of that evaluation is available at:
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/familyasylum>

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