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Legacy Cases

The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) have recently published a question and answer sheet relating to these cases. BIA has renamed legacy, and now refers to this as case resolution.

The Q&A sheet is available at:
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/asylum/casesresolutionprogramme>

Despite this, it is clear that some advisors are offering to complete legacy questionnaires for a fee. It seems that some of these advisors offer to do so, despite the fact that the individual has not themselves received a questionnaire from BIA; and some suggest that legacy is an amnesty exercise.

A further information sheet called "Legacy Cases 2" is now available.

Legal Aid

In April, the Constitutional Affairs Committee produced a highly critical report on the Government's Legal Aid plans. That report is available at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmconst/223/223i.pdf>

More recently, on 19 July, Keith Vaz MP has tabled an Early Day Motion calling for the Legal Aid regulations allowing for changes to be made in October to be delayed so that Parliament can debate these. This EDM has 43 signatures so far, and it can be seen at:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=33824&SESSION=885>

Independent Police Complaints Commission

On 26 July, the Home Office launched a consultation on extending powers to the IPCC to investigate serious complaints against immigration officers.

The consultation is available at:
http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/6356/17715/consultation_document_v05.pdf

Responses to this consultation are due by 17 October. An information sheet on "IPCC consultation" is available.

Unified Border Force

In Parliament, on 25 July, the Prime Minister announced the introduction of a unified border force. A copy of the PM's statement, in which this announcement was made, is available at
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page12675.asp>

The Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties have been calling for a border police force. For the moment, the Government's intention appears to be something short of this.

Refugee Integration

The Mayor of London has launched a consultation on his strategy for refugee integration in London. Information on this consultation and a copy of the draft strategy are available at:

<http://mayor.london.gov.uk/mayor/equalities/immigration/strategy.jsp>

Points Based System: student sponsors

On 24 July, further information was announced relating to accreditation for educational establishments wishing to bring international students into the UK.

This system of accreditation is expected to be introduced in early 2009, when the points based system will be introduced for students. Details of the announcement are available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/accreditationof4sponsors>

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ILPA information service

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