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Immigration Rules changes

On 13 May, the Government announced further concessions relating to the re-entry bans that were introduced by HC 321 – Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules.

Information about the concessions is available from the “Immigration Rules – concessions on general grounds for refusal” information sheet.

Legacy cases

Arrangements so that individuals and legal representatives can find out which Case Resolution Team is responsible for their particular legacy case are still awaited. Since it is hoped that these will be available very shortly, updating information sheets on “Legacy Cases” are being held back for the time being.

Simplification

Information sheets on “Simplification Project” have given information about the Government’s proposal to simplify UK immigration law.

At the National Asylum Stakeholders Forum on 22 May, it was said that a draft simplification Bill (this is expected to be called the Citizenship, Immigration and Borders Bill) will be published no later than the end of July.

Points based system

The UK Border Agency has made a number of recent announcements about the points based system.

On 19 May, an announcement was made about transitional arrangements that have been introduced for tier 1 of the points based system relating to how an applicant demonstrates that his or her qualification is equivalent to a UK degree. See: http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/tier1general_points-basedsystem

On 6 May, an announcement was made about skilled and temporary workers – these are to be dealt with as tiers 2 and 5 of the points based system and proposals have

been set out with the announcement, which can be seen at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/tighernewrules>

On 11 April, an announcement was made about transitional arrangements that would be put in place for those migrants in the UK whose immigration categories were in the course of being replaced by the points the based system. See:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/pbstemporaryarrangements>

UK Border Agency surveys

Those who have views on the services provided by the UK Border Agency and other departments relating to issuing passports, certified copies of births, marriage, deaths and other certificates etc. and information for workers and employers on the UK Border Agency website may wish to take part in surveys which were announced on 21 May. Details of these surveys are available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/identityservicesurvey>
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/employersandsponsorssurvey>

Healthcare for foreign nationals in the UK

The April 2008 judgment by the High Court in *A v Secretary of State for Health* has important implications for access to healthcare by refused asylum-seekers in England; and may also have implications for refused asylum-seekers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales or for other foreign nationals in the UK.

The “Access to Healthcare” information sheet provides information about the relevant NHS guidance and the impact the judgment has had on guidance to date.

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