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Simplification

On 14 July, the Government published several documents as the next part of the ongoing "Simplification Project" on which there have been two previous information sheets. These documents are available at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/immigrationandcitizenshipbill/>

These documents include:

- the draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill
- a scrutiny document with questionnaire
- an introduction to the Bill – *Making Change Stick*
- a partial impact assessment
- draft illustrative Immigration Rules on protection
- an analysis of responses to the *Path to Citizenship* Green Paper

Draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

The draft Bill, published on 14 July, is an incomplete version of the Bill which the Home Office currently expects to put to Parliament in January 2009. When complete, it is intended that the Bill will replace all the Immigration Acts from the Immigration Act 1971 onwards.

Citizenship

The Home Office has indicated that it intends to proceed with the proposals set out in the *Path to Citizenship* Green Paper on naturalisation. This intention is reflected in the provisions on naturalisation in the draft Bill (Part 3, clauses 31-36). Information on those proposals was provided in the March 2008 "Path to Citizenship" Green Paper.

Marriage Immigration

On 23 July, the Home Office announced its intention to make significant changes to the circumstances in which migrants may come to the UK on the basis of their marriage to a British citizen or other person with settled status in the UK. This announcement follows the consultations relating to marriage immigration.

Information regarding those consultations was provided by the December 2007 "Marriage Immigration" information sheet.

More information is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/marriagevisaageraisedtoprevent>

Points based system

In July, the Home Office has published further details relating to the points based system – in particular, the sponsorship register (for tiers 2, 4 & 5) and arrangements to be made for overseas students (tier 4). Arrangements have also been introduced following the HSMP Forum judgment.

Announcements regarding these matters are available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/sponsorregisteropentoall>
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/strictnewrules>
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/hsmforumjudicialreview>

Right to Marry judgment

On 30 July, the House of Lords dismissed the Home Office appeal against judgments of the High Court and Court of Appeal which had held that the certificate of approval scheme operated by the Home Office was an unlawful violation of Article 12 (right to marry) of the Human Rights Act 1998.

An information sheet on "Right to Marry judgement 2" will be available shortly. It is understood that the Home Office are considering the judgment; and any changes that may be required to the way the certificate of approval scheme is currently operated. This information sheet will, therefore, be delayed for a short time in the hope that information relating to any changes that are introduced can be included.

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Steve Symonds

ILPA legal officer

020 7490 1553

steve.symonds@ilpa.org.uk

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

www.ilpa.org.uk

T 020 7251 8383

F 020 7251 8384