



# immigration update 16

## **Identity Cards**

On 25 September, the Home Secretary introduced the new UK identity card. From 25 November, the card will begin to be compulsory for some migrants to the UK. Further information is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/firstidcard>

The draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill contains provisions which, if implemented, would enable the immigration authorities to stop people at random to demand to see an identity card – see the “Draft Bill – Identity Cards” information sheet.

## **Points Based System (PBS)**

In September, the UK Border Agency announced various PBS developments. The following information is available at the listed links.

Changes to sponsorship guidance: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/changestoguidance>

Codes of practice for sponsoring skilled workers (Tier 2): <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/copforsponsoredskilledworkers>

For highly skilled migrants (Tier 1), changes to guidance and the list of English language test providers: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/changestotier1guidance> <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/englishlanguageetestproviders>

On 8 September, the Migration Advisory Committee recommended a list of shortage occupations to the Home Office, see: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/macshortagelists>

Two new information sheets are available on “Points Based System – Temporary Workers (Tier 5)” and “Points Based

System – Youth Mobility (Tier 5)”.

## **Permission to Work – Asylum-Seekers**

Recent rumours suggested the Home Office had changed its policy on permission to work for Zimbabwean asylum-seekers.

The Home Office has made clear to ILPA that there is no change in policy. The position remains that asylum-seekers and refused asylum-seekers, of any nationality, will ordinarily be refused permission to work. Where a person’s initial asylum claim remains outstanding for 12 months or more, permission to work may be granted.

## **Immigration Appeals**

On 21 August, the UK Border Agency launched a consultation on the future of the immigration appeals system. Further information is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/appealsconsultation>

## **Asylum Support**

Over recent weeks, the UK Border Agency has reviewed the current provisions for providing support and accommodation to asylum-seekers and refused asylum-seekers. A consultation on asylum support is expected in October. Provisions on asylum support will be included in the Immigration and Citizenship Bill to be introduced to Parliament in early 2009.

## **UK Immigration Policy and Children**

The New Statesman has launched a campaign to end the detention of children – “No Place for Children”, see: <http://www.newstatesman.com/subjects/no-place-for-children>

On 22 September, the Government announced that it would be removing its immigration reservation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Further information is available at: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2008\\_0209](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0209)

## **ILPA information service**

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

## **Steve Symonds**

ILPA legal officer

020 7490 1553

[steve.symonds@ilpa.org.uk](mailto:steve.symonds@ilpa.org.uk)

## **Immigration Law Practitioners' Association**

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

T 020 7251 8383

F 020 7251 8384

29<sup>th</sup> September 2008