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Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill was presented to Parliament on 14th January. It has begun its parliamentary passage in the House of Lords, with Second Reading scheduled for 11th February.

Further information on this Bill is available from information sheets on “Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill” and “Transfer of Judicial Reviews”.

Judicial Review & Removals

On 9th January, the UK Border Agency announced a change in its practice on dealing with judicial review challenges to removals. This change took effect from 30th January. The announcement is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/policychangeonjudicialreviews>

More information is available from the “Removals and Judicial Review 2” information sheet.

National Audit Office

On 23rd January, the National Audit Office published its report on Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency. The report is available at: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/management_of_asylum_appl.aspx

The UK Border Agency gave a short response to the publication of the report. That response is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/nao-asylum-report-response>

Domestic servants

On 23rd January, the UK Border Agency announced changes to the way in which it would deal with applications for leave to enter or remain by domestic servants in diplomatic households. The announcement is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/privateservantsdiplomatic>

Detention policy

On 19th December 2008, the High Court gave judgment in the case of *R(Abdi & Ors) v SSHD* [2008] EWHC 3166 (Admin). The Home Office had changed its policy on when ex-foreign national prisoners would be subjected to immigration detention; but had kept the change secret for more than 2 years. The High Court ruled that it was unlawful to keep the policy secret, but also that the new policy was unlawful whether or not made public. The judge declared the case to be “*in some respects unedifying and in others respects disquieting*”.

On 29th January, London Detainee Support Group launched their report on indefinite detention: “Detained Lives”. The report is available at: <http://www.detainedlives.org/wp-content/uploads/detainedlives.pdf>

Code of Practice on Keeping Children Safe from Harm

The UK Border Agency introduced this Code of Practice on 6th January. It is available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/keepingchildrensafefromharm>

Related information is available from the December 2008 “Children’s Welfare” information sheet.

Complaints Audit Committee

The third and final annual report of the Complaints Audit Committee was published in November 2008. This and previous annual reports, and the Home Office responses to these, are available at: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/cacreports/>

In future, the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the efficiency and effectiveness of the UK Border Agency, including in handling complaints.

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