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## **Trafficking**

On 1 April, the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings took effect in the UK. The Government's announcement and some further details are given at:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/boosttougfightaginsthumantrafficking>

## **Points-based system – students & workers**

On 31 March, the Government changed the Immigration Rules so as to introduce the points-based system for students, and made changes to the points-based system affecting sponsors, and highly skilled and skilled workers. See:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newrulesforpbssponsors>  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/toughnewrulestargetboguscolleges>  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/immigrationrulesrevisedtier1form>

## **Applications for ILR**

Since April 2007, applicants for indefinite leave to remain have been required to meet English language and knowledge of life in the UK requirements. Information was provided by the April 2007 "Applying for Settlement" information sheet.

Before March, applicants who have failed to meet these requirements have had their applications for ILR treated as applications for further limited leave to remain. In March this changed. Now, where these requirements are not met, the application will simply be refused. Those who cannot meet the requirements can be considered for further leave to remain, but must make an application for further leave (not for indefinite leave to remain).

More information is available at:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/knowledgeofliferequirement>  
**Chief Inspector of UKBA**

On 2 April, the chief inspector of the UK Border Agency published his inspection plan for 2009/10. The plan is available at:  
<http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/inspection-programme/index.asp>

## **Access to healthcare**

In March, the Court of Appeal gave an important decision in relation to migrants' access to healthcare – particularly for refused asylum-seekers. Further information is provided by the "Access to Healthcare 2" information sheet.

## **Zimbabwe**

In March, the Home Office issued new guidance to its caseworkers about Zimbabwe asylum claims. The new guidance, set out in the most recent Operational Guidance Note (OGN), suggests that last year's country guidance decision by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) should no longer be followed because the evidence shows there to be a change in Zimbabwe since the AIT decision.

ILPA has written to the Home Office about this because the new OGN mischaracterizes the AIT decision. The OGN does not, therefore, identify evidence that shows any change from the assessment by the AIT.

Information about the AIT decision is available from the December 2008 "Zimbabwe Country Guidance" information sheet. The new OGN is available at:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/countryspecificasylumpolicyogns/zimbabweogn?view=Binary>

## **UKBA plans for 2009**

On 24 February, the UK Border Agency published a 10-point plan for 2009. This is available at:  
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/10pointdeliveryplan>

*24<sup>th</sup> April 2009*

## **ILPA information service**

funded by JRCT

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

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