

# **ILPA** immigration update 25

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## **Identity cards and biometrics**

The UK Border Agency continues to roll out identity cards for foreign nationals. From 6 January, skilled workers under Tier 2 of the Points Based System will be required to enrol for an identity card when successfully applying to extend their stay in the UK. It has also begun checking fingerprints of migrants to the UK at immigration controls. Meantime, the Government has introduced voluntary identity cards for British citizens and European Economic Area nationals. Further information is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/15-icfn-skilled-workers>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/november/introducing-fingerprint-checks>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/november/62-checking-new-id-cards>

## **Migration Advisory Committee report**

The Migration Advisory Committee has reported on the Tier 1 of the Points Based System which permits highly skilled migrants to come to the UK. More information about the Committee's recommendations and a copy of the report are available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/06-mac-tier-1>

## **Chief Inspector of UK Border Agency**

The first annual report of the Chief Inspector has been published. Currently, the Chief Inspector is investigating the asylum system. A copy of the first annual report is available at:

<http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

## **Draft Immigration Bill**

On 12 November, the Government published its latest draft of an immigration Bill that it intends should replace all the current immigration Acts. More information is available from the "Draft Immigration Bill" information sheet.

## **Minimum age for partners**

Last year, the Government changed the minimum age requirement for partners under the Immigration Rules for when one partner wishes to come to the UK to join the other partner who is British or has indefinite leave to remain. The High Court has this month decided that the change is lawful. More information is available from the "Marriage Age Judgment" information sheet.

## **Third Party Support**

The UK Supreme Court has this month ruled that third party support may be relied upon in family-related migration under the Immigration Rules. More information is available from the "Third Party Support" information sheet.