

ILPA immigration update 32

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Legal Aid

On 15 November 2010, the Government announced proposals to make cuts and other changes to Legal Aid. There have been several developments in Legal Aid this year, and a short review of these is set out in the "Legal Aid 5" information sheet. The Government proposals are a matter of very great concern. ILPA will be producing further information sheets in this area. Meantime, it should be noted that there is an ongoing consultation (to close on 14 February 2011). ILPA will provide more information about the consultation. However, those who have any concerns about Legal Aid should be strongly encouraged to make some response to this consultation. The consultation documents are available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm>

Fees

Immigration fees have just gone up again. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice is consulting on whether to introduce fees for immigration appeals. More information is available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/fee-charges-appeals-consultation-211010.htm>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/fees/>

Economic Migration Cap

On 23 November 2010, the Government announced changes, including a cap, to Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the Points Based System. More information is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/78-first-annual-limit>

Applications for repayment of fee for certificate of approval to marry

The UK Border Agency has announced that it will not accept applications for repayment made after 30 November 2010. More information is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/26-changes-to-the-coa>

Zimbabwe

On 14 October 2010, the Government announced its intention to end the suspension on removals to Zimbabwe. There remains an outstanding country guidance case before the immigration courts. The suspension has not, therefore, been ended. Meanwhile, the announcement is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/oct/35enforced-returns-zimbabwe>

Points Based System – refusals on maintenance grounds

Points Based System applications that have been refused before 23 July 2010 on maintenance grounds only may be reviewed. The UK Border Agency has issued guidance about how to apply for a review of a refusal. This applies to applications (in Tiers 1, 2, 3 and 5) for further leave made up to and including 22 July 2010 and applications for entry clearance made between 23 June and 22 July 2010, including applications by dependants. For more information, see:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/75-revised-guidance-pankina>