

ILPA immigration update 39

The ILPA information service is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

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24th June 2011

Legal Aid

On 21 June, the Government published the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. This Bill contains numerous provisions to do with the criminal justice system. However, it includes provisions to make sweeping cuts to Legal Aid.

The “Legal Aid Bill” and “Legal Aid Bill 2” information sheets provide more information about this Bill, which is to be subjected to an accelerated procedure. The Second Reading of the Bill is scheduled for 29 June.

Settlement consultation

On 9 June, the UK Border Agency published a consultation on settlement relating to migrants who come to the UK to work. This includes proposals to significantly reduce the circumstances in which they may be permitted to apply for settlement (indefinite leave to remain). It also includes proposals about domestic workers, including that the Immigration Rules be changed so as not to permit domestic workers to come to the UK from outside of the European Economic Area. More information is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/12government-migration-proposals>

Students

The Government has announced new changes to the Immigration Rules affecting students. The UK Border Agency has also published a ‘frequently asked questions’ sheet relating to English language requirements introduced in April 2011. Information is available at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/17-t4-changes>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/49-oversight-qaa-isi>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/05-english-language-t4>

Workers

The UK Border Agency has announced that it may not have dealt with applications for further leave to remain correctly in the case of some migrant workers who came to the UK before the introduction of the Points Based System. It has, therefore, decided to make arrangements for a limited group of workers so that they may be permitted to apply for further leave. See:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/36-extension-skilled-workers>

New applications form – European cases

The UK Border Agency has published new application forms relating to Romanians and Bulgarians, and to European Economic Area (and Swiss) nationals and their family members, see:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/30-new-verison-of-br1-form-guide>

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/29-new-eea-forms>