

# **ILPA** immigration update 44

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## **Legal Aid Bill**

On 18 January 2012, the House of Lords debated matters concerning legal aid for immigration cases. More information is available from the “Legal Aid Bill 7 – Update” information sheet.

## **Bulgarians and Romanians**

In November 2011, the Government announced it would be extending until the end of 2013 restrictions on access to the UK labour market for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals. These two countries joined the European Union in January 2006. More information is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/44-labour-restrictions>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/january/38-new-br3-form-guidance>

## **Appeals Fees**

In December 2011, fees were introduced for immigration appeals. However, some appellants may be exempt from the relevant fee. More information is available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/guidance/courts-and-tribunals/tribunals/immigration-and-asylum/first/online-fees-guidance.pdf>

## **English language requirements**

In January 2012, the UK Border Agency announced changes to its list of approved English language tests for the purpose of certain immigration applications. It also indicated that in April 2012 a concession, which allows certain migrants to make applications prior to taking a test or receiving the result, will be withdrawn. More information is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/january/78-english-language>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/tier-2-5-1-elr>

## **Biometric Residence Permits**

From 29 February 2012, the Government intends to extend the categories of migrants who will be issued with biometric residence permits. More information is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/13-brp-online-checks>

## **Points Based System**

In January 2012, the UK Border Agency announced further changes affecting the Points Based System. More information is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/january/01-t1-et-ace>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/tier-2-5-online>

## **Strategic Legal Fund for refugee children's cases**

More information is available from the “Strategic Legal Fund” information sheet.