

ILPA immigration update 53

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Legal Aid

Changes from 1 April 2013

On 1 April 2013 the changes to legal aid set out in The Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 came into effect. For more information on the transitional provisions in place please see <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/data/resources/16615/12.12.19-legal-aid-13-update.pdf> and for information on Exceptional Case Determinations please see <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/data/resources/17809/13.05.02-Exceptional-case-Determinations.pdf>. The outcome of tenders in immigration and asylum can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/legal-aid/contracts-and-tenders/tenders/face-to-face-tenders-for-2013-contracts>.

New Consultation

The Ministry of Justice is consulting on further changes to the current legal aid system. The consultation document and attachments can be found here: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-legal-aid>.

The consultation closes on **4 June 2013**. ILPA urges refugees and migrants and those who work with them to respond to the consultation and to make their views known. The consultation has implications across immigration, criminal and family law for access to justice and the rule of law. If you have any comments please contact Alison.Harvey@ilpa.org.uk.

The Agency formerly known as the UK Border Agency

On 26 March 2013 the Home Secretary announced that the UK Border Agency would be transferred back to the Home Office as of 1 April 2013. We do not yet know what the final structure will be of the body taking over from the UK Border Agency. We do know that two new "commands" are being put in place; *UK Visas and Immigration* and *Immigration Enforcement*. For more information please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-interim-directors-general-appointed>

Asylum Operating Model

The first stage of the Asylum Operating Model was commenced in April 2013, with further changes to the asylum process to come throughout 2013/2014. The first stage aims to 'triage' cases to allocate them to a specific 'track'. For more information please see <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/data/resources/17810/13.05.02-Asylum-Operating-Model-info-sheet.pdf>

Visit Visa Appeals

Applicants who are refused a family visit visa will no longer have the right of appeal against the refusal. This change is expected to be implemented on or after 25 June 2013, after which point an applicant's options on receiving a refusal of a family visit visa application will be limited and include making a fresh application or applying for an internal review. For more information please see <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/april/63-royalassent>