

ILPA immigration update 37

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Prime Minister's speech

On 14 April 2011, the Prime Minister gave a speech on immigration. The speech is available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/14/david-cameron-immigration-speech-full-text>

Following this speech, the Deputy Prime Minister appeared on the BBC Politics Show on 17 April and the Prime Minister appeared on the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme on 19 April. The upshot of those appearances appeared to make clear that it is not Government policy to achieve a reduction in annual net migration to tens of thousands (though this is a Conservative Party aim or aspiration). Rather, Government policy remains that set out in the May 2010 coalition agreement, which is to have a limit on non-EEA economic migration.

Immigration Rules

Several changes to the Immigration Rules took effect on 6 April 2011. These include the introduction of a requirement that applicants for settlement under the Rules must be free from any unspent convictions. For more information see the "Settlement and Unspent Convictions" information sheet. Other information concerning the various changes includes:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/42-settlement>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/44-kol-skilled>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/april/07annual-limit-immigration>

Students

Other changes to the Immigration Rules, specifically affecting migrant students, are to take effect on 21 April 2011. More information is available at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/42-settlement>

On 18 April 2011, the UK Border Agency announced that it would be reviewing sponsorship for Tier 4 (students), and in due course requiring all Tier 4 sponsors to achieve Highly Trusted status:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/47-hts>

Immigration Fees

Immigration fees were increased again from 6 April 2011. See:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/april/04-fees-april>

Libyan nationals in the UK

The following announcement was made on the UK Border Agency website on 11 April 2011:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/april/18libya-visa-holders>