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## **Home Office ten-point plan**

On 14 January, the Immigration Minister, Liam Byrne MP, gave a speech to staff of the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA). In that speech, he set out a ten-point plan for the coming year giving dates by which changes would be achieved. Details of the speech and the plan can be found at: [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/tenpointplan](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/tenpointplan)

## **European Refugee Fund 2008-2010**

Those organisations involved in projects for the integration of refugees or people who have been granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave may seek financial support from this fund. Two areas are of particular interest:

- projects assisting with access to employment
- projects concerned with Refugee Community Organisation (RCO) development

The closing date for applications for funding is 22 February. Further information and an application form may be obtained from: [www.homeoffice.bravosolution.com](http://www.homeoffice.bravosolution.com)

## **Review of citizenship**

Lord Goldsmith QC, the former Attorney General, is conducting a review about British citizenship. He is to report to the Prime Minister in March. Meanwhile his review is open for individuals or organisations to offer their views. Details about the review are available from the information sheet on "Citizenship Review".

## **Visitors to the UK**

In December, the BIA issued a consultation paper concerning visitors to the UK. The proposals under consideration may affect tourists, business visitors and those visiting family and friends.

Further information about this consultation and the proposals is available from the "Visitors to the UK" information sheet.

## **UASC reform programme**

Those who work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) will have been waiting for further information from the BIA following the consultation on UASC reform that was issued in February 2007. This has recently been again delayed.

Information about this reform programme was given in the "Children's Asylum Claims" information sheet.

## **Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

This Bill passed through the House of Commons with a plethora of additions, but these additions do not relate to immigration. The Bill contains provisions for a special immigration status (see previous Immigration Updates), and is now in the House of Lords.

## **Race relations audit of Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs)**

The BIA has published a report concerning race relations in IRCs produced by Focus Consultancy Ltd. The report is available at: [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/racerelationsaudit/](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/racerelationsaudit/)

## **Illegal working**

On 27 December, the BIA announced an advertising campaign for January aimed at employers. The announcement is available at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newadvertisingcampaignlaunched>

## **Legacy cases**

Before Xmas, the Case Resolution Directorate allocated 310,000 cases to around 60 new teams. The allocation of a case to a team does not mean the case is now being actively considered. However, the establishment of these new teams means that legacy cases are likely to be considered at a faster rate than previously. A further information sheet on "Legacy Cases" will be available in the near future.

## **ILPA information service**

funded by JRCT

[www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html](http://www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html)

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*18<sup>th</sup> January 2008*