

ILPA immigration update 15

Draft (partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

As noted in the previous update, this draft Bill was published on 14 July. The Home Affairs Committee has announced that it will be scrutinising the draft Bill; and has issued an invitation for written evidence. That evidence should be received by the Committee no later than 17 September 2008. Further details are available at: http://www.parliament.uk/ parliamentary committees/ home affairs committee/ hacpn080722no56.cfm

The Joint Committee on Human Rights has also invited written evidence on significant human rights issues raised by the draft Bill and other measures, not included, but identified at paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes as to be included when the full Bill is introduced. That evidence should be received by the Committee no later than 31 October 2008. Further details about the Committee are available at: http://www.parliament.uk/ parliamentary committees/ joint committee on human rights.cfm

Points based system

In August, the Home Office has published further information about the points based system - particularly about the standards it will expect employers to meet if they wish to be licensed in order to sponsor migrants under Tiers 2 or 5 of the system. Information is available at: http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/ sitecontent/newsarticles/pbs2and5standards

Further information about the points based system is now available from three new information sheets.

Families of EEA nationals

The European Court of Justice gave an important judgment in July regarding the rights of family members to travel with or join an EEA national who has moved (whether permanently or temporarily) to an EEA country (other than his or her own country) under European free movement rights. Further information is available

from the "Families of EEA Nationals" information sheet.

Common Travel Area

In July, the Home Office launched a consultation on proposals to make changes to Common Travel Area arrangements, including to introduce greater immigration controls between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Further information about this consultation is available at: http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/ sitecontent/documents/aboutus/ consultations/ strentheningthecommontravelarea/

'Automatic' deportation

On 1 August, the Government brought into force part of the measures in the UK Borders Act 2007 which relate to 'automatic' deportation.

These measures set out particular circumstances when the Home Office will be required to deport a migrant, who has been convicted of a crime in the UK. They particularly affect anyone sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more - if that sentence is passed on or after 1 August; or the person is still serving the sentence on that date. These measures may also affect anyone who receives a suspended sentence of 12 months or more, if part of that sentence is ordered to take effect on or after 1 August.

Destitution

In July, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and Asylum Appeals Support Project published reports relating to destitution among asylum-seekers and refused asylumseekers. Further information is available at: http://www.jrct.org.uk/text.asp? section=0001000200030006 http://www.asaproject.org/web/index.php? option=com content&view=article&id=102 :asaps-new-research-documentqunreasonably-destituteq&catid=41:latestnews&Itemid=72

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Steve Symonds ILPA legal officer

020 7490 1553

steve.symonds @ilpa.org.uk

Immigration Law Practitioners' **Association**

www.ilpa.org.uk T 020 7251 8383 F 020 7251 8384