

Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: Immigration - next steps for policy

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 20th June 2013

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



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FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Chris Bryant MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration
- 9.05 - 9.30 **UK Migration - latest analysis, findings and issues**
Professor Sir David Metcalf, Chair, Migration Advisory Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.15 **Family migration and settlement - assessing the impact of reform**
Perspectives on the future of the family route of migration and settlement, as well as scheduled changes in this area following Government's Family Migration consultation last year. What impact have increased thresholds had for those who wish to sponsor non-EEA migrants as their spouse, partner or dependant, and what evidence is there that the revised framework will reduce burdens on the British taxpayer? Was Government right to lengthen the minimum probationary period before partners can apply for settlement to five years, and what impact has this had on applications since its introduction last year? How do stakeholders view scheduled changes to the English language testing regime later this year, and is the requirement of a B1 (intermediary) level for settlement applicants realistic, particularly with regard to the availability and affordability of English language courses? What measures should continue to be considered in relation to Government's ambitions to more effectively tackle both sham and forced marriage?
Mark Rimmer, Head of Registration and Nationality, Barnet Council and Chair, Local Registration Services Association
Ruth Grove-White, Policy Director, Migrants' Rights Network
Nikki de Prey, Owner, de Prey Consulting
Dr Keith Hoodless, Director of Operations, Learning Resource Network
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.20 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Chris Bryant MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration
- 10.20 - 10.50 Coffee
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Dr Francesca Fabbri, Principal Analyst, Implementation Group, Cabinet Office
- 10.55 - 11.55 **Worker migration and the labour market - challenges for skills, competitiveness and investment**
How has the business community responded to Government's recent decision to stabilise the cap for skilled non-EEA workers for the remainder of this Parliament, and what indications are there that the current quota of 20,700 workers per annum will need to be revised? Are Government's current minimum qualification and earnings thresholds for skilled workers artificially inflating salaries, and if so, what long-term implications might this have for the labour market? Is Government right to continue 12 month 'cooling-off periods' for those wishing to re-apply for a Tier 2 skilled worker visa? How useful is the intra-company transfer (ICT) exemption for multinationals operating in the UK, particularly in light of recent measures to simplify and reduce the documentation that businesses require to use it? Should companies need to apply for an additional UK visa if they have already complied with the European Schengen Agreement, and how does this current requirement impact on UK competitiveness?
Tom Hadley, Director of Policy and Professional Services, Recruitment and Employment Confederation
Julia Onslow-Cole, Partner and Head of Global Immigration, PwC Legal
Tony Brown, Policy Advisor, EFD Group, European Parliament
Damien Venkatasamy, Director of Public Sector UK & Ireland, Tata Consultancy Services
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Regulating student migration and post-study work**
In what ways have recent changes to the Tier 4 student route of immigration impacted on net migration figures? Is the correct balance currently being struck between stopping bogus students from obtaining visas, and allowing higher education institutions (HIE) to attract the "brightest and best"? How do stakeholders perceive Government's recent proposals for the use of more interviews in the student visa application process, and what can be learnt from interview pilot schemes for particular countries such as Pakistan? In what ways are tougher language requirements impacting on the attractiveness of the UK as a place to study? How effective have measures been in improving the compliance of Tier 4 sponsors, and what can be learnt from the revocation - and recent reintroduction - of London Metropolitan University's licence? How is the retention of non-EEA graduates into the UK labour market being affected by the closure of the Tier 1 post-study work route, and how effective is the recently expanded Graduate Entrepreneur Route proving as an alternative? In what ways might recent measures to provide PhD students and MBA graduates with a 12 month post-study window to find work (or establish a business) support an evolving framework?
John Mountford, International Director, Association of Colleges
Alp Mehmet, Vice Chairman, Migration Watch UK
Professor Malcolm Gillies, Vice-Chancellor, London Metropolitan University
Sanam Arora, President, National Indian Students Union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Dr Francesca Fabbri, Principal Analyst, Implementation Group, Cabinet Office
Marc Gammon, Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum