

Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24



Welcome to the January edition of our bimonthly partner update. I would first like to wish you a very happy new year.

The past year has been a demanding and challenging one for the agency, but also one in which it has achieved many successes in delivering the government's reducing net migration programme agenda. I've been in post now for an eventful three months and have made some changes in that short time to support what I want the agency to become – a more integrated, joined-up and intelligence-led organisation, which ultimately becomes a world-class, 21st century law-enforcement service.

Robust arrangements were in place to maintain the security of the border during public sector strike action on 30 November. There were also some notable successes including, 25 clandestines detected at Calais and Dunkirk, 1.5kg cocaine detected at Stansted and 3,000 cigarettes and 23kgs of hand rolled tobacco at Birmingham. I would like to thank partners who worked with us leading up this action and on the day itself. We appreciate how you worked with us to ensure we managed travellers' expectations and kept disruption to the minimum possible. We received some positive feedback but would still welcome more

feedback about what worked well, what made it work, and what didn't work well and what we could have done better ([page 9](#)).

On 20 December I attended my first quarterly evidence session at the Home Affairs select committee. I spoke about the agency's focus on ensuring compliance and enforcing the rules. I also made a commitment that the agency would reduce the asylum 'controlled archive' to under 50,000 by the end of the 2012-13 financial year ([page 3](#)).

In November's edition I updated you on number of disciplinary investigations that were commissioned relating to the agency's activities at the Border. The investigations into Carole Upshall and Graeme Kyle have been concluded. I am pleased to announce both have returned to work, with Carole returning to her previous role and Graeme being selected for the role of area director for the South East region ([page 10](#)). Marc Owen has been appointed as border force's director at Heathrow. Marc has been acting director since November and I am delighted that he will be in the job on a permanent basis. I know that you will join me in thanking Marc for his work over the past few months, and congratulate him on his appointment.

I am also pleased to announce that Emma Churchill has been appointed as head of strategy and

Continued on next page

Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

intelligence, and brings with her to this role a wealth of experience – most recently in asylum and policy ([page 3](#)). Zilla Bowell has been appointed as our new director of asylum, taking on leadership of this important role. Zilla has worked as chief of staff for three chief executives and has provided invaluable support and advice in some challenging and difficult periods. I would like to wish both of them the very best for their new posts.

Whilst I will be sad to see him leave, I am pleased to announce that Matthew Coats, interim head of border force, has been appointed chief executive of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and will take up his new post on 27 February. We are currently recruiting for a new executive director of border control and final panel interviews will take place at the end of January. We will ensure the continued strong management of border force until a successor is in place. For now I am sure you will all want to join me in thanking Matthew for all his hard work over the last 5 years and to wish him every success in his new role ([page 10](#)).

Looking forward, 2012 looks to be an exciting and challenging time for the agency. It is now less than 6 months to the 27 July opening ceremony of The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Since London's successful bid in 2005 the agency has been building its Olympic Programme team and has a crucial role to play in helping to make the London 2012 Games safe and secure; and our preparations are well underway ([page 5](#))

I hope that you find this edition both informative and assessable, and welcome any further comments you might have. For general enquiries please email the [UK Border Agency partnerships and engagement team](#). For specific enquiries please see the contact details under the relevant article or contact your local UK Border Agency representative.

I very much look forward to working with you in 2012.

Rob Whiteman
Chief Executive
UK Border Agency



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Chief executive gives evidence about the agency

Rob Whiteman, chief executive of the UK Border Agency, has given his first quarterly evidence session at the [House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee](#) (HASC).

Rob told the committee he wanted to create ‘a compliance culture’ in the agency, with a focus on enforcing the rules and pursuing those who do not comply. He also spoke about the ‘controlled archive’ of legacy cases, foreign national offenders, immigration appeals, use of e-gates and IRIS scanners at the border and, in particular, staff morale across the agency. Rob also made a commitment that the agency would reduce the asylum ‘controlled archive’ to under 50,000 by the end of the 2012-13 financial year.

Strategic director of strategy and intelligence appointed

In our November edition we updated you on Rob Whiteman’s plans for the agency and his decision to join up different parts of the organisation. The strategy and intelligence directorate brings together existing business strategy and high-level intelligence functions. We are pleased to announce that Emma Churchill has been appointed to this important role. Emma will build on the work already underway, bringing together strategy and intelligence functions, along with corporate resources including communications. She brings a wealth of policy, operations and strategy experience having worked in a number of senior roles across government and the Home Office. Most recently she was director of asylum and director of immigration policy.

Further information on the agency’s structure can be found on our website:

[UK Border Agency | Our organisation](#)



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Forced marriage consultation

The Home Office is currently seeking views on whether forcing someone to marry should be made a criminal offence, or whether current arrangements provide adequate protection; as well as seeking views on what more could be done to prevent forced marriage from happening.

A forced marriage is one in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage, but are coerced into it. The coercion can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

The [consultation document](#) sets out clear arguments both for and against making forced marriage a criminal offence. The Home Office is also interested to hear views on how to implement the criminalisation of breaches of the civil Forced Marriage Protection Orders. The consultation closes on 30 March 2012 and comments can be submitted using the [online form](#).

Details of all current Home Office consultations can be found on the Home Office website:

[Consultations | Home Office](#)

Don't be fooled by unofficial websites

People ordering birth, death and marriage certificates were warned by the Registrar General not to be fooled into paying more through unofficial websites.

[The Advertising Standards Authority](#) has upheld a complaint from the Registrar General about third party websites misleading customers into believing that they were ordering from the government's own website. The authority warned 'UK Official Services' and 'UK GRO Certificates' that they were in breach of the Committee of Advertising Practice code and that they must stop appearing or implying that they are the General Register Office.

The General Register Office phone number for people wishing to order and enquire about birth, death and marriage certificates changed on 5 January 2012 to 0300 123 1837. It has been designed to be as memorable as possible by including 1837 – the year that civil registration was first introduced in England and Wales.



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

UK Border Agency Olympic and Paralympic Programme

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the largest sporting event ever hosted in the UK. The agency has a crucial role to play in helping to make the London 2012 Games safe and secure, and with just over six months to go, our preparations are well underway. The agency is working closely with **Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)** and **London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG)** to support the delivery of the games.

Since April 2008, agency staff have been working at the Olympic Park to support the process of checking that people employed on the site hold genuine identity documents and are legally entitled to work in the UK. This process was extended across the Athletes' Village

site in February 2009. We continue to support the checking of documentation in the lead up to and during The Games.

The Olympic Clearing House began operating in October 2011 and has the responsibility of conducting background checks, on behalf of LOCOG, on more than 380,000 accreditation applications; including Games Family Members (athletes, coaches, games officials and official media), workers and volunteers.

On 1 January, we opened the **visa application process** for general spectators, ticket holders and unaccredited members of the media planning to travel to the Games from visa countries. We will process visit visas for those who meet the rules within our target of 15 working days.

Continued on next page



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

We will collect biometrics from all visa nationals, either on arrival or before travel to the UK, and have already co-ordinated the voluntary collection of biometrics at four major sporting events abroad.

Biometric capture at the border for Games Family Members is on track for delivery. There were demonstrations to internal and external stakeholders on 13 January, including a walkthrough of how the biometric capture works and the processing of a simulated queue. We have begun training agency staff on using the equipment and pilots will begin later this month.

Agency staff at the border will play a huge part in welcoming athletes and teams from around the world to the UK; including more than 4000 Paralympians who will be competing in the Paralympic Games from 29 August. We have called upon the expertise of diversity specialists within the agency to develop a training and awareness package for staff to ensure that those arriving with disabilities are welcomed with dignity and respect. The training package will be rolled out at ports over the next few months.

We have been working with BAA Heathrow and LOCOG to develop a clear and comprehensive approach to 'way finding' for passengers arriving for the Games at Heathrow airport; with dedicated immigration lanes exclusively for Games Family Members. Our aim is to support a safe and secure Games and to facilitate smooth entry into the UK for both Games Family Members and business as usual passengers. By deploying a mobile suite of 'way finding' products and LCD screens, we will have the flexibility to adapt the number of dedicated lanes on a daily or even hourly basis to meet needs and help minimise delays.

The agency's London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic programme has undergone significant testing of internal systems and processes including HR and national Olympic Command Post exercises. We will take part in a further two cross government testing exercises in the lead up to the Games.

Further information relating to the work of the programme may be obtained by visiting the website at: [UK Border Agency | London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games](#)



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

UK Border Agency Strategic Threat Assessment (STA) 2012

The UK Border Agency's STA considers threats the agency faces. The assessments cover subjects ranging from Class A drugs to clandestines and endangered species to electronic attack. It highlights key areas for inclusion in top level planning and this year will be a major contributor to the agency's newly developing single control strategy.

The assessment is compiled by intelligence analysts from strategy and intelligence who work closely with colleagues in analytical and operational teams across the agency. They also link with other government departments and agencies to get their perspectives on areas of common interest. This is followed up with a series of workshops which factor in how wider national and international developments may effect risk areas in future. Identified threats are then ranked to help senior management deploy resources effectively to tackle these.

Work on this year's STA is just beginning with the final report due to be published in June. If you are interested in contributing or would like more information please contact John Williams (020 8745 0924) or Ian Gill (020 8745 2439).



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Tier 5 youth mobility scheme

From 1 January 2012, Taiwan joined the UK's youth mobility scheme, under Tier 5 of the points-based system; the countries that already participate are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Monaco.

The scheme is for young people, from participating countries and territories, who want to come and experience life in the UK. Every year the UK government allocates a number of places on the youth mobility scheme for each country and territory. For 2012, Taiwan, Japan and Monaco will each receive an allocation of 1,000 places, in line with the number of places offered to UK nationals on their reciprocal schemes. Australia, Canada and New Zealand's allocations will match the number of UK nationals who were issued visas on their reciprocal schemes in the previous year:

- Australia – 32,500 places
- Canada – 5,000 places
- New Zealand – 10,000 places

The Immigration Rules were amended on 1 January 2012 to reflect the addition of Taiwan to the scheme. A statement of changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 1693) was laid before Parliament on 8 December, and can be downloaded from our [Statements of changes to the Immigration Rules page](#). To find out about the youth mobility scheme and arrangements for Taiwanese applicants, please visit the our [website](#).

Mandatory registration scheme for summer or winter school applications in China

The UK Border Agency has established a mandatory registration scheme for agents and other organisations wanting to arrange summer school or winter school programmes to the UK. To ensure the agency can provide a quick service for genuine applicants and protect children, any agent or other organisation intending to arrange or lead a tour of young people to the UK for a summer or winter school, must first register with the British Council. This is a mandatory scheme and agents will not be able to submit group visa applications unless they register.

For further information on how to register you should contact us at:

BeijingSummer.WinterSchools@fco.gov.uk



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Securing the UK border during strike

Robust arrangements were in place to maintain the security of the border during public sector strike action on 30 November. In the lead up to the action the UK Border Agency undertook significant work, including:

- training managers, staff and contractors to the high standards needed to carry out secure border checks
- asking staff from foreign posts to provide additional cover on the day
- working with external partners, airlines and port operators to identify potential pressure points

Preparations focused on ensuring every option was considered to ensure a pool of suitably-trained staff

was available to operate the border securely; with staffing on the day being structured to allow maximum flexibility to meet the aim of maintaining a full range of checks, whilst minimising any disruption.

Despite the industrial action, the agency made sure the border remained secure and the effect on travellers was limited. There were also some notable successes, including:

- 25 clandestines detected at Calais and Dunkirk
- 1.5kg cocaine detected at Stansted
- 3,000 cigarettes and 23kgs of hand rolled tobacco at Birmingham



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Border Force staffing

Following the update in the November edition relating to the UK Border Agency's activities at the border you will be aware that a number of disciplinary investigations were commissioned.

Carole Upshall, regional director of border force south and european operations, and Graeme Kyle, formerly director of border force at Heathrow were suspended as a precautionary measure. The investigations have been concluded and both have returned to work, with Carole returning to her previous role and Graeme being selected for the role of area director for the South East region.

Matthew Coats, interim head of border force, has been appointed chief executive of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and will take up his new post on 27 February. We are currently recruiting for a new executive director of border control. The successful applicant will lead the current management and future development of border force. He or she will work with the new border policing command of the National Crime Agency and other partners to ensure the security of the UK's border and manage the legitimate passage of people and goods. Final panel interviews will take place at the end of January. We will ensure the continued strong management of border force until a successor is in place.

Information on the agency's senior management team is available on our website: [UK Border Agency | About us](#)

UK-Ireland common travel area

The UK and Irish governments signed an important agreement on 20 December 2011 reinforcing their commitment to preserve the Common Travel Area (CTA) and help crack down on illegal immigration.

The Common Travel Area is a passport-free zone that comprises Ireland, Great Britain, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands and can be crossed by Irish and British citizens with only minimal identity documents.

Immigration Minister Damian Green signed a memorandum of understanding in Dublin with Irish Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence Alan Shatter towards joint standards for entry and ultimately enhanced electronic border systems to identify those with no right to enter the CTA before they arrive at the border.

The agreement outlines work being taken on by both countries to prevent abuses of the Common Travel Area, while protecting its long-established benefits of trade and tourism.

Further information on this can be found on our website: [UK Border Agency | The UK and Ireland to improve the Common Travel Area](#)



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

e-Borders Progress

Since the November edition the programme has continued to connect carriers operating to and from the UK to the e-Borders system. The system is currently screening data from around 95% of flights from outside of the EU and is working hard to achieve the target of 100% of Non-EU aviation data by April 2012.

Design and development work is also well under way on interfaces which will enable the General Aviation, General maritime and ferry sectors to start providing their data to the e-Borders system from April 2012. Engagement with the rail sector also continues and consideration of a passenger rail solution is under active discussion and will be developed in light of the options available.

The programme also continues to support the review of Smartzone trials (The operation of Smartzones has been suspended pending the conclusion of the review); working with industry representatives prior to making recommendations on next steps for roll-out. Recommendations based on the review by the Independent Chief Inspector to Ministers will be presented to partners as early in 2012 as possible. For further information please email: ebct@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

American woman jailed for cocaine smuggling

An American woman has been jailed for 7 years after trying to smuggle cocaine into the UK through Birmingham airport. Elizabeth Salters, 35, was questioned by agency staff at the airport after travelling from Newark in the USA on 21 September 2011. During a search of her baggage a gift-wrapped parcel was found in a laptop bag which was found to contain cocaine. A further 2 packages, also containing cocaine, were found concealed within the lining of the laptop bag. In total, 3kg of cocaine, with a potential street value of over £500,000, was seized.

On the 10 January 2012 Salters pleaded guilty to the importation of a controlled drug at Leamington justice centre and was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.

Anyone with information about suspected smuggling activity should call the UK Border Agency on 0800 595 000. Please visit our website for more information [UK Border Agency | Report immigration crime or smuggling](#).



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs)

Regulations have been approved in Parliament which will see more foreign nationals being issued with biometric residence permits from 29 February 2012; including refugees and those granted settlement. Since the rollout began in November 2008 the agency has issued over 600,000 biometric residence permits, containing fingerprints and photograph on a secure chip.

BRPs are an important step in fighting immigration abuse and illegal working and make it easier for employers to verify a foreign national's right to work in the UK. Employers can download [guidance](#) on checking biometric residence permits and their security features from the agency's website and call a helpline to check validity (see article below). This information will be updated to reflect relevant changes which come into effect in 2012. From spring 2012 the agency also plans to [launch a new online checking service](#) to provide quick and easy real time checks on the permit, the holder's identity and right to work.

The phased rollout of biometric residence permits means increasing numbers of people from outside the European Economic Area are required to register their fingerprints, photograph and signature. To provide customers with more locations around the UK where they can do this, the agency has contracted Post Office Ltd. to deliver biometric enrolment services for

four years from spring 2012. A network of around 100 Crown Post Offices across the UK will be available for postal customers to use. This ensures that a biometric enrolment facility is within reasonable travelling distance for the vast majority of our customers.

Further information can be found on our website: [UK Border Agency | Biometric residence permits](#)



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

The Settlement Checking Service 12 month pilot

The Settlement Checking Service (SCS) partnership project between the UK Border Agency and local authority registration services across England, Wales and Scotland concluded in November. The pilot, which commenced in October 2011, demonstrated benefits for the customer, the agency and our local authority partners alike.

The SCS is an optional service, available for a fee, to applicants applying for permission to settle in the UK (also known as ‘indefinite leave to remain’) as the husband, wife, civil partner, unmarried partner or same-sex partner of a British citizen or a person who is settled here; using the SET (M) application form. At local authority register offices a trained local authority officer:

- checks that the SET(M) form is completed correctly;
- checks the correct application fee has been paid
- copies and returns valuable documents; and
- ensures the application is valid and submits this to the agency.

This service will continue to be provided in collaboration with the Nationality Checking Service under the single banner of the Immigration Checking Service. Efforts are now focussed on raising the profile of the service through the agency website and information on customer letters. Further opportunities are being sought to advertise the service and increase customer interest. Consideration of opening the service to more types of applications is under review.

We are now looking forward to moving the service to a business as usual activity, merging with the successful Nationality Checking Service and continuing to grow and expand. The Settlement Checking Service enhances the North West’s regional role as the Centre for Permanent Migration and builds on the important work already underway to improve operations and delivery for the public in partnership with local authorities and registration services.

The full contact details of the local authorities providing the service are on the UK Border Agency website: [UK Border Agency | Settlement checking service](#)

For further information please contact Ann Woodall on 0151 213 4247



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Closure of Biometric Resident Permits (BRPs) Management Service

As part of the UK Border Agency's strategy to move more of our services online, we are replacing the BRPs management and verification telephone services (telephone numbers: 0300 123 2412 and 0300 123 4699) with an email system. Customers will still be able to access the telephone services until 9pm on 31 January. From 9am on 1st February the following email services will be in operation:

- To notify us of an issue with the delivery of a BRP, please email: BRPDelivery@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- To notify us of an error on a BRP, please email: BRPError@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- To report the loss or theft of a BRP please email: BRPLost@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- To confirm a BRP is valid, employers and sponsors should email: employerBRPverification@ukba.gsi.gov.uk

Customers without access to email will be able to send their enquiries by freepost to:

Freepost RRYX-GLYU-GXHZ
Returns Unit
PO Box 163
Bristol
BS20 1AB

New procedure for Arts Council England endorsement

Applicants under Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) of the points-based system must follow a new procedure if they want Arts Council England (ACE) to endorse their application. If applicants are seeking ACE endorsement, they must now complete ACE's new competent body application form and submit it with their visa application. They must also submit supporting documents which show that they meet ACE's eligibility criteria. Until now, applicants seeking ACE endorsement needed to submit the supporting documents but did not need to submit the form.

There is no change to the procedure for Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) applicants who want their application to be endorsed by the Royal Society, the British Academy or the Royal Academy of Engineering. As before, they must submit a completed 'science bodies' competent body application form and documents showings that they meet their competent body's eligibility criteria.

The form and the criteria can be downloaded from the [Exceptional talent – request for endorsement page](#).

Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Impact of sanctions against Iran on applicants under the points based system

New measures contained in the Financial Restrictions (Iran) Order 2011 require UK credit and financial institutions to cease all business with banks incorporated in Iran, their branches and subsidiaries wherever located, and with the Central Bank of Iran. This means that UK credit and financial institutions are prohibited from entering into or continuing with transactions or business relationships with these entities, unless licensed to do so by HM Treasury.

These sanctions are most likely to affect applicants for visas in the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) and Tier 1 (Investor) categories. Before making an application relying on funds that must be transferred to the UK but are currently held in Iran, applicant should check that they will be able to transfer the funds. They should do this by applying to HM Treasury for a licence if they want to transfer more than 40,000 euros and by speaking to the bank in the UK with whom they wish to deposit their funds.

Students receiving a loan of more than 40,000 euros from the Government of Iran will also need to make a specific licence request to HM Treasury.

These new restrictions are in addition to the EU requirements already in place. Further details about these measures can be found on the [HM Treasury website](#).

In addition, HM Treasury has issued a number of general licences which exempt certain activities from the requirement of the Order. For more information on the licence please refer to the [Financial Restrictions \(Iran\) Order 2011](#) on the HM Treasury website.

The [licence application form](#) is available on the HM Treasury website.

Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

COMPASS Project – Announcement of Preferred Bidders

The COMPASS Project is to provide ongoing contract provision for asylum support services, in accordance with government policy, beyond the current arrangements which are due to expire during 2012. The following asylum support services are currently within the scope of COMPASS:

- Initial / dispersed accommodation
- Transport into the region and
- Transport within the region

To ascertain the bidders who provided the most economically advantageous and quality based bids, COMPASS held an e-Auction during October 2011.

Following the closure of the e-Auction, a shortlist of preferred bidders was identified and ratified through our internal and external governance channels. The preferred bidders shortlist was announced on 9 December 2011 through internal and external communications. The project is now going through a period of due diligence before contracts will be formally awarded in February 2012. The shortlist of preferred bidders can be found on our website:

[UK Border Agency | COMPASS](#)

The project is working with the regions and partners to support the transition of service users from current to new contracts ensuring minimal disruption.

Further updates on the work of the COMPASS Project will be issued over the coming months. In the meantime, should you have any queries please contact the COMPASS Mailbox: Compass@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Changes to immigration and asylum appeals

On 19 December 2011, the Ministry of Justice introduced new fees for some asylum and immigration appeals, reflecting the government's view that users of the appeals system, who can afford to pay, should contribute to its cost.

Fees of £80 for a paper consideration and £140 for an oral hearing will be applied to appeals against decisions taken on or after 19 December. These are low-level fees that should be affordable for people who will be required to pay. The proposed fees will recover around 25 per cent of the full cost of administering the appeal system.

Applicants who appeal decisions dated 19 December or later from outside of the UK, will also be required to submit their appeals directly to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in Leicester and will no longer be able to send them to the visa section that made the initial decision.

It is important to recognise that the Tribunal can award costs to the individual if their appeal is successful, making it critical that the initial decision on the case is the best quality.

More details of these changes can be found on the [UK Border Agency](#) and [Ministry of Justice](#) websites.

Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Penalties to be published

The UK Border Agency will shortly publish quarterly reports detailing the penalties given to people or organisations who employ illegal workers.

Illegal working causes damaging social and economic problems for the UK. It undercuts businesses that operate within the law, undermines British workers, and exploits migrant workers. Employers who employ illegal workers will face robust action and may face a civil penalty of up to £10,000 for each illegal worker.

The government works with employers to ensure that they take their responsibility to avoid employing illegal workers seriously. We recommend that all employers check that all new employees are entitled to work in the UK and we publish guidance to help. The reports will provide a reference tool for the public as well as for corporate partners and other stakeholders.

For the full story and for further information on what quarterly reports are due to be published, please visit the [UK Border Agency website](#).

Sham marriage ring leaders jailed

An east London ‘couple’ who devised an elaborate immigration scam enabling Bangladeshi men to settle in the UK illegally have been jailed for a total of 6 years.

Mohammed Tanin, a 26-year-old Bangladeshi, and Maria Marques, a 47-year-old Portuguese national, were arrested at their home in Tower Hamlets, in March 2011 by agency staff. Both were convicted at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 7 December following a 15-day trial. Further information can be found on our website: [UK Border Agency | Sham marriage ring leaders jailed](#)



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Honours for South Yorkshire Local Immigration Team

Three members of the South Yorkshire Local Immigration Team were nominated for a Sheffield city award recently, by charitable organisation City Hearts, in recognition of the work that the agency staff have undertaken in relation to potential victims of trafficking (PVoTs).

City Hearts provides short term accommodation and support for PVoTs. Tina English from City Hearts commend the agency for its work in screening PVoTs, in particular interviewing skills and professionalism when dealing with vulnerable women.

The award demonstrates the specialised work of the South Yorkshire Local Immigration Team and their commitment to safeguarding the needs of vulnerable women.

For further information please contact Susan French
0114 207 1414

Algerian butcher meats his match

An Algerian male using a counterfeit French identity card has been apprehended by our Dorset Arrest Team. Agency staff carried out a visit to a small supermarket in Bournemouth during the first part of December.

They encountered a man working as a butcher who was using a counterfeit French identity card. He was arrested on suspicion of illegal entry and taken into police custody where at interview he maintained his French identity. When fingerprint checks were carried out, it was found that the gentleman was an Algerian national who was granted a 6 month visit visa in 2009. A photocopy of the bio data page of his Algerian passport was obtained which confirmed his true identity.

Due to the excellent working relationship between the agency and Dorset Police, the gentleman was referred and subsequently charged under the ID cards Act has pleaded guilty and will be sentenced early January 2012.

For further information please contact
Geraint.jones3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

UK Border Agency continues crackdown on south west immigration offenders

Nearly 200 immigration offenders were removed from the UK in 2011 after being found living or working illegally in Devon and Cornwall. In the first 9 months of 2011 (up to 30 September) 199 offenders were removed at a rate of more than 5 a week.

Offenders were detained during illegal working raids, visits to residential properties or during other immigration operations carried out by the agency's Plymouth-based local immigration team.

During the same period, the agency also fined businesses in Devon and Cornwall £434,250 for employing illegal workers – although some of this total relates to raids carried out prior to 2011.

For more information on operations carried out by the UK Border Agency in 2011, please visit the [UK Border Agency Website](#).



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Closure of Lindholme immigration removal centre

Lindholme immigration removal centre (IRC) closed at the end of December 2011. Lindholme was a long-term facility used to accommodate detainees awaiting case resolutions and subsequent removal from the UK.

The centre provided accommodation for males over the age of 18 with a total bed space of 124 and was managed by HM Prison Service on behalf of the UK Border Agency. The centre has now been returned to the Prison Service and it will be converted into a resettlement centre for prisoners during 2012.

Family Returns Success for Wales and South West

Wales and South West removed a Russian family of 5 from London Heathrow to Finland on 15 December under the new family returns process. The new process was introduced in response to the government's commitment to end the detention of children.

This case highlights the excellent work the dedicated family and minors' team are doing in this highly sensitive area of work; but also the robust approach the agency will take if families refuse to return voluntarily.

Strengthening links with partners such as local authority children's services has been key to the success of the new process. By consulting partners at all stages the agency ensures that the best interests of the children are safeguarded when agreeing the return plan.

The removal went very well, the family knew exactly what to expect and were fully compliant. This is testament to the amount of work that the agency did prior to the visit, ensuring the return plan was tailored to the individual needs of family members and the family were fully informed of what was happening.

Further information on the family returns process can be found on our website: [family-returns-fact-sheets](#)



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

National Migration Group (NMG) – 8 December 2011

At the meeting the new chair, Neil Hughes, head of temporary migration, led an initial discussion on improving the format of the meeting, working toward refocusing it as working group.

Mark Franks provided an update on the Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) achievements over the past 12 months. This includes eight reports provided to the government following a variety of consultations, including concurrent ones on settlement and family migration as well as work on the impacts of migration; this report is due to be released in January 2012. He also shared information on current migration trends in and provided an update on what work lay ahead.

There was an update on Biometric Residents Permits followed by an update on changes to the Tier 4 student route introduced to support the government's reducing net migration agenda.

Children's sub-group – 7 December 2011

The new chair, Lynne Spiers took the helm at the December 2011 Children's sub-group meeting. The first introduction was from Lisa Killham, the new Children's Champion, who gave an overview of the work of the Office of the Children's Champion and its role in ensuring the agency is joined up on children's issues. This was followed by an update on screening of children in the Asylum Screening Unit (ASU) and Biometric Residents Permits.



Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF) – 12 December 2011

Donna Covey, co-chair of NASF announced that Emma Churchill had been appointed to a new role as Director of Strategy and Intelligence for the Home Office. Following the meeting it was advised that Zilla Bowell had taken over the position as head of asylum and would be responsible for co-chairing the NASF.

There was a discussion around the UK Border Agency's response to the Upper Tribunal's judgement in Employment Appeal (EA) (Sri Lanka), which calls on the agency to amend the Immigration Rules to allow fiancé (e) s of refugee's entry to the UK.

This was followed by various discussions around the work programme, including; information and advice for applicant's; integration; quality of decision-making; equality and screening.

The final session was focused on the work of the Criminal Casework Directorate (CCD), which forms part of the Enforcement and Crime Group in the UK Border Agency. There was purposeful discussion with interest expressed in CCD case owner training and handling of issues related to torture, trafficking and children.

Upcoming meetings with corporate partners

Partner Group	Date of Next Meeting	Contact
National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF)	9 February 2012	Sheelagh.Warde2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Children's Sub-group	13 March 2012	Sheelagh.Warde2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
National Migration Group (NMG)	27 March 2012	Sheelagh.Warde2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Contents

Introduction	1
Home Office and agency wide news	3
2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	5
Intelligence	7
International	8
Border force.....	9
Immigration	
Managed migration	12
Asylum	16
Enforcement and crime	
Enforcement	18
Removal and detention	21
Strategic partner groups	22
Regional focus	24

Local news within your region of interest

London and South East

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/?area=LondonandSouthEast

Midlands and East of England

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/?area=MidlandsandEastofEngland

North East, Yorkshire and Humber

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/?area=NorthEastYorkshireandHumber

North West

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/?area=NorthWest

Scotland and Northern Ireland

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/?area=ScotlandandNorthernIreland

Wales and South West

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/?area=WalesandSouthWest