



**WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP**



Message from Alan Johnson

'Since 8 February, young people aged 16 to 24 who live in London have been able to apply for a national identity card.

The roll-out to young people in the capital follows the successful uptake of cards in Greater Manchester and the extension to those who live or work across the whole of the north-west of England.

The £30 national identity card provides a secure and convenient way for people to prove their identity whether they are travelling in Europe - the cards can be used in place of a passport for travel throughout Europe - or buying age-restricted goods.

Young people across the capital buying alcohol, computer games and DVDs, going to the cinema or to a club, know how important it is to have a recognised proof of identity which is easy to carry.

Research by the Identity & Passport Service shows that over half of lost and stolen passports belong to people under 30, and a tenth of those are lost by people using them as ID on a night out. A national identity card fits easily into a purse or wallet and removes the need for young people to carry their passports just to prove age.

Also, anyone who has registered an interest through the Directgov website can now apply for a card. More than

20,000 people have already registered an interest in getting a national identity card in this way, and demand is very strong.'

For more information, please go to www.direct.gov.uk/idsmart

Individuals can get more information, or make an appointment for a national identity card by calling 0300 330 0000.



Message from Lin Homer, Chief Executive, UK Border Agency

'The government has already made fundamental reforms to the immigration system to control migration in a way that is firm but fair.

We have introduced a points-based system under which migrants apply for limited leave to allow them to work or study in the United Kingdom. Introducing this system has put in place the means that now allow us to control migrants coming to the UK to work and study.

On 12 November 2009, the Prime Minister announced a review of Tier 4 (the student route under our points-based system for controlling migration). As a result of this, on 10 February, the Home Secretary announced a package of measures to tackle the abuse of Tier 4 by economic migrants, whilst at the same time continuing to safeguard the ability of genuine international students to come to the UK to benefit from our world-class education system and bring benefit to our economy.

The review highlighted concerns about the numbers of individuals who were not serious about studying in the UK, but who were primarily using Tier 4 as a route to work. There were also concerns about dependants who have also historically enjoyed the right to work in the UK. The new regulations will ensure that students studying below degree level (excluding those on foundation degrees) have a more restricted ability to work in the UK and that their dependants cannot work here at all unless they qualify in their own right under the skilled or highly

skilled tiers of the points-based system.

The Home Secretary also announced that we will change Tier 4 guidance to raise the minimum level of English language course which can be studied, to ensure it is less open to abuse, and to introduce a requirement for all sponsors of students studying below degree level (but again, excluding foundation degrees) to assess their students' English language proficiency. We will also introduce arrangements for formal English language testing for Tier 4 by early summer, and are currently reviewing the criteria that approved test providers will be required to meet.

The review also looked fundamentally at the levels and types of courses which foreign students should be able to come to the UK to undertake through Tier 4.

Full details of the review and new regulations, which come into force on 3 March 2010, can be found at [UK Border Agency, tougher rules for foreign students](#).

In addition, the points-based system's sponsorship arrangements will include a new 'highly trusted sponsor' category, which will be implemented on 6 April following a period of consultation with the education sector. Only those with highly trusted status will be able to offer courses at National Qualifications Framework Level 3 and courses with work placements below degree level.

These measures will improve our control of Tier 4 but should do little to deter genuine students whose main focus is study.'

Current Business at the Home Office

- On 31 January, the UK Border Agency announced that, as of 1 February 2010, it is not accepting any **new applications under the Tier 4 student route** of the points-based system at a number of visa application centres in South Asia. Also, from 22 February, any student who applies by post or at one of our public enquiry offices to study in the UK **under Tier 4 of the points-based system** must possess a

confirmation of acceptance for studies from their prospective sponsor.

- The **Migration Advisory Committee is hosting a series of regional stakeholder forum events** with the aim of spreading a better understanding of the committee's work and to hear what stakeholders have to say at a regional and local level. Dates of future events are: 5 March in Leeds; 19 March in Cambridge; 30 April in London; 13 May in Nottingham, and 11 June in Liverpool. If you wish to attend any of these events, please call 020 8604 6076, or email mac@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- **Proposals for the European Refugee Fund 2009 and European Return Fund 2010** are now open. The fund is mainly aimed at organisations involved in setting up projects that assist in the integration of refugees or people who have been granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. The closing date for completed applications is 4pm on Thursday 25 March 2010.
- The UK Border Agency recently laid **new regulations for the fees for immigration and nationality applications for 2010/11**. The government reviews the fees on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary.
- A powerful new **advertising campaign to challenge the attitudes of teenagers to violence and abuse in relationships** was launched on 15 February. The adverts send a strong message to 13- to 18-year-olds, highlighting the signs and consequences of abuse, and challenging them to stop abusive behaviour or seek help. Television and radio adverts will run for four weeks and a dedicated website will give teenagers information on abuse in relationships and where to go for help.

- Home Office minister Alan Campbell announced on 12 February that **local communities will soon have greater powers to challenge the number and location of lap dancing clubs in their area**, after a final consultation on the plans ended. Where the new provisions are adopted by local authorities people will, for the first time, be able to oppose an application for a lap dancing club and from 6 April local authorities will require all lap dancing clubs in their area, including existing venues, to hold a sex establishment licence if they want to continue to operate lawfully.
- The Home Secretary attended the Design Council on 4 February to unveil two **revolutionary prototype pint glasses** designed to reduce the terrible injuries caused by nearly 87,000 glass attacks each year. The safer pint glasses, designed not to shatter into loose and dangerous shards, have been produced under the 'Design out crime' programme, an initiative from the Design Council and the Home Office's design and technology alliance against crime. The revolutionary prototypes - world-firsts that feature new hi-tech ways of using glass - will now undergo a range of intensive tests before they are ready to be piloted in pubs and bars.
- The government has refuted claims made by the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) that it has failed to understand the threat this country faces from international terrorism. In its **reply to the HASC's report into the Home Office's response to terrorist attacks**, the government said that it has extremely effective systems and processes in place to deal with the threat.
- Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, has maintained that the control order regime remains viable and necessary. His **fifth report on the operation of the 2005 Prevention of Terrorism Act and control orders**, published on 1 February, concludes that he would have reached the

same decision as the Home Secretary in each case in which a control order was made in 2009.

- Members of the public can now take immediate action to **report violent extremist, terrorist or hate content found online**. From February, as part of a pilot scheme, the Directgov public service website will provide a form for people to report suspected terror-related and extremist websites to the police.
- The Home Secretary has **banned membership** of Al Mahajiroun, Islam4UK and a number of other organisations, saying they are identical to Al Ghurabaa and The Saved Sect, two previously proscribed organisations. Islam4UK had planned a march through Wootton Bassett to honour Muslims killed in the Afghanistan conflict.
- The Prime Minister has announced **new measures to track terror suspects and strengthen airport security** following the attempted attack on a flight to Detroit on Christmas Day. They include extending the Home Office 'watchlist' and using it as the basis for a new 'no fly' list to stop suspected terrorists from travelling to the UK, as well as creating a list of those who should be subject to special screening before boarding flights to the UK.
- A new framework came into force on 29 January, aimed at **helping those in airport security to work together more effectively**. Part of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, the framework introduces mandatory stages of airport security planning and removes the old system of 'designation' under which only nine airports were required to pay for dedicated policing, while policing at other airports was paid for by the taxpayer.

- The **UK's threat level** from international terrorism was raised from 'substantial' (an attack is a strong possibility) to 'severe' (an attack is highly likely) to make the public more vigilant but not to frighten them, security minister Lord West has told the Home Affairs Committee.
- Key partners and stakeholders will discuss progress in delivering the UK's CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy at a series of events taking place in February and March. The events will provide an opportunity for staff in the office for security and counter-terrorism to meet those working in counter-terrorism in four regions and to look at how to improve working relationships with those concerned. If you would like to attend, please contact: contest@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Good Practice Projects

- Two Corby based **award-winning teams targeting alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour** have been praised by Home Office minister Alan Campbell. The Corby Jam Team has helped raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol misuse, and successfully reduced antisocial behaviour in the area. Team members used 'beer goggles' to simulate the effects of being drunk and life-sized cut-outs of body parts to show the effects of alcohol on the body, and delivered interactive sessions on the streets and places where young people gather. Their efforts resulted in a reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour incidents recorded by police, and led to the project winning a Home Office Tilley Award for crime reduction in 2009. On a visit to Corby, Mr Campbell also met winners of Corby Borough Council's best community project 2009, to see how regeneration work to redevelop the park for sport and recreational use has made the area much safer.

Consultations

- On 10 February, the UK Border Agency published formal analysis of the 2009 public consultation '**Earning the right to stay: a new points test for citizenship**' and confirmed that the introduction of a points test is planned for July 2011.
- A list of all **current Home Office consultations** is available on the Home Office website.
- **UK Border Agency consultations** are available on the agency's website.

Contact us

If you're having difficulty contacting the appropriate part of the Home Office relating to your area of practice, the Corporate Communication Unit may be able to help.

If your query relates to immigration, asylum, Home Office research and statistics, identity cards, passports, or visas, you should **contact the appropriate area directly via its own website** in the first instance.

If, however, you are still having difficulty making contact with the Home Office, then please feel free to email the **Corporate Communication Unit** or phone: **020 7035 6525**.

If you require this document in an alternative format (eg, hard copy, braille or an audio version) please contact **stakeholders@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**, 020 7035 6525.