

October Newsletter

UK Visas



As of the 11th October 2007 the Home Office have launched some new visa application forms. Their aim is to make them easier to read and complete, only to ask for relevant information and to be directly linked with Immigration Rules.

- VAF1- Visitor
- VAF2 – Employment
- VAF3 – Student
- VAF4 – Settlement
- VAF5 – EEA Family Permit
- VAF6 – Direct Aidside Transit

Assistance for locally engaged staff in Iraq

It has been announced by David Milliband that locally engaged staff working for our armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq will now be eligible to apply for help and assistance in recognition of the invaluable work they have done.

What will they be allowed to apply for?

- Iraqi staff who have attained 12 months' or more continuous service, to apply for one off relocation costs (in Iraq or the region) between 6 and 12 months' salary, if they are made redundant or have to resign through exceptional circumstances.
- Or they will be able to apply for ELR or enter the UK through the refugee resettlement program (Gateway) as long as they satisfy UNHCR that they meet the criteria of the 951 Convention and need resettlement.



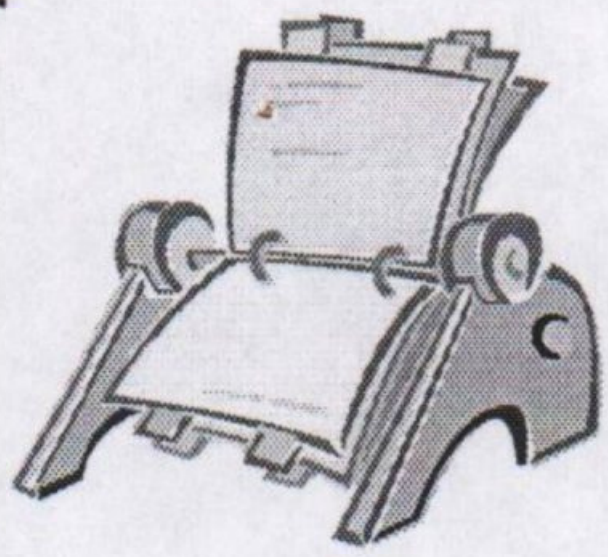
Passports

Passport Application Interviews

There will be 69 local offices across the UK and the interviews are expected to take about 30 minutes.

First time passport applicants will have to complete the forms, wait for initial verification to take place and then wait to receive a letter which advises them to contact the IPS to make an appointment. If you have a special requirement you must make this known when you make the appointment.

We have a more detailed explanation of each step of the passport application procedure, please ask me for a copy of this.



**Iraqi Embassy – New
Address**

**Evlaston Place 3
London
SW7 5QH**

Tel: 02075909220

Refugee Council

**Asylum Support
Pack.**

Due to a number of changes within the Asylum Support systems (previously NASS) we have a document which details some of these changes. Please see me if you would like a copy forwarded to you.



Sudan

On 4th October 2007 an article was promoted in the Independent newspaper regarding the torture of returned Sudanese nationals to their home country.

The report, which is attached, looks at the fact that there are stories of people being returned to Khartoum (the capital) and facing persecution from Sudanese security forces upon return.

The Home Office are currently trying to overturn a case which says that it could be unduly harsh to send people back to Khartoum. Many Sudanese have submitted fresh claims or JR's against removal on the back of this case.

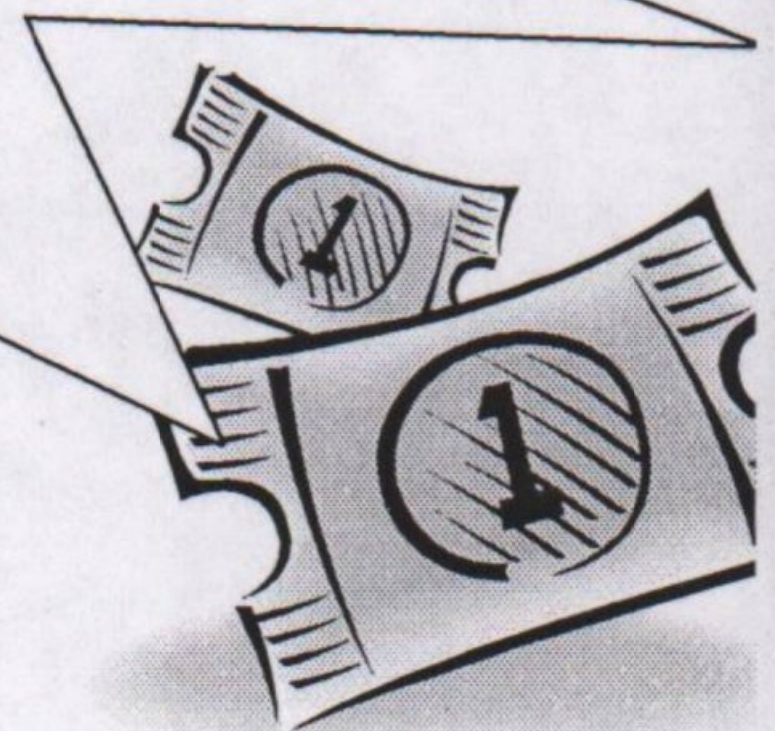
The Aegis trust (a charity which campaigns against the genocide in Darfur) condemned the government for sending people back to almost certain persecution, torture and possibly death.



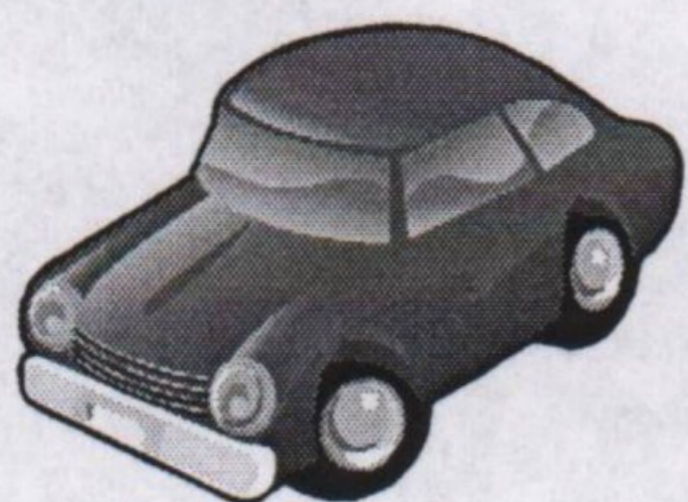
New Tel No

Travel and Accommodation team (NASS
– tickets for interviews and appeals)

Tel: 0151 237 6263/6214/6257
Fax: 0151 237 6250



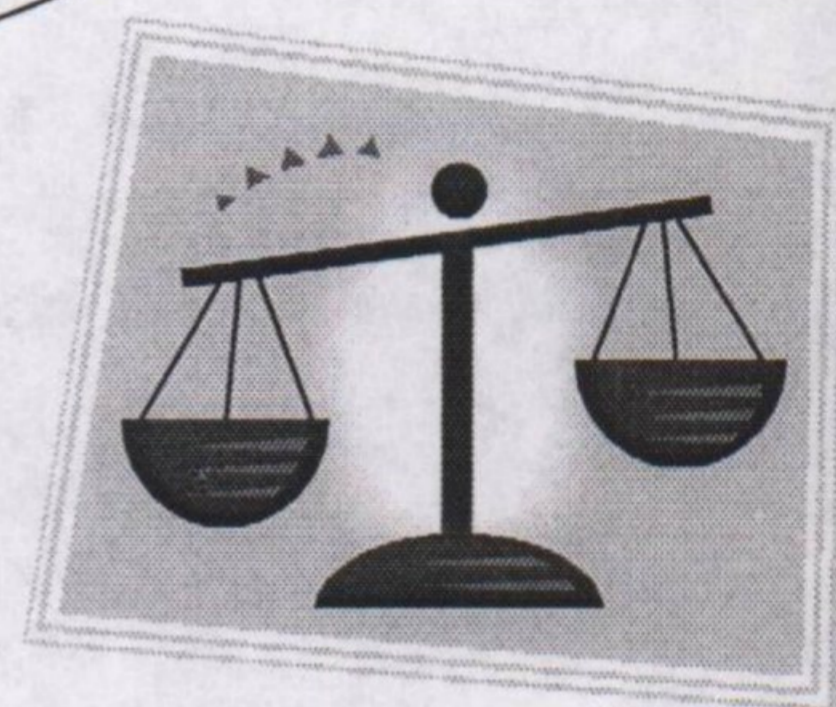
DVLA Test



The Driving Theory Test has now changed. The test now comprises of 50 multiple choice questions and you have to get 43 correct answers to pass.

DRC - Deportation Decision

The BIA (formerly IND) has not been removing asylum seekers for a number of months. The case went back to the AIT (Asylum and Immigration Tribunal) and we are now just waiting for the determination. We shall let you know if we hear anything.



Case Resolution Directorate (CRD)



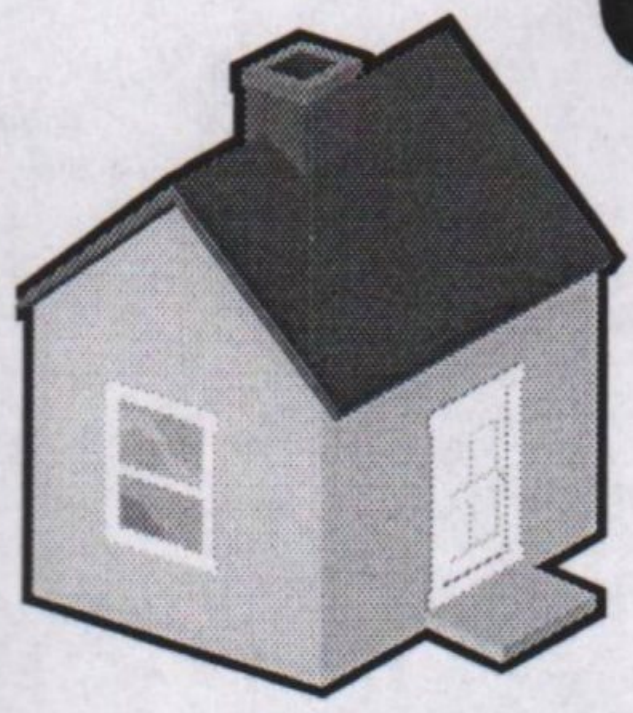
What is a case resolution Directorate Case?

Any asylum claim which was made before the 7th March 2007 is now a case resolution case. Those after this date are called NAM cases.

A number of people will have got CRD questionnaires. At the moment the BIA (Border and Immigration Authority) are ONLY processing the family questionnaires. In Nottingham they estimate that it will affect about 127 families. This means that they will look at each case and decide whether or not to grant them some sort of leave to remain.

It is not sure how many people will get a positive decision from this exercise, but there have been suggestions that up to 90% could.

You are now able to access a CRD questionnaire to LOOK AT on the Home Office website. All CRD cases must wait for one of these questionnaires to be sent to them. We advise that everyone seek LEGAL advice to complete these questionnaires.



S95 and S4 dispersals into Nottingham



At the moment there are NO Section 95 or Section 4 dispersals coming into Nottingham as the city is over its limit. There has been a steady decrease of asylum seekers living in the area and these figures will be monitored every month. Once these figures are below the maximum level it is quite likely that dispersals could start again.

However if they do start again, the local housing department have suggested that accommodation providers may not be able to obtain new houses in certain areas. This is currently being discussed within the Multi-Agency Partnership. Once we have more information we will forward this to you.

Asylum Seeker Housing

There have been a number of issues regarding the standard of housing which asylum seekers are forced to use.

The systems which the BIA uses to appoint accommodation providers are increasingly dependent on the cheapness of the quote. As we know, this can mean that AS are put into sub standard accommodation. There have also been reports that these National Providers (www.insidehousing.co.uk) are also pushing individual landlords to the brink of bankruptcy due to the way that these larger contracts are managed. At Refugee Forum, we will be starting to record any accommodation complaints that are dealt with so that we may advocate on behalf of these individual cases as well as around the whole subject of sub standard accommodation.

If you have any information or if you would like to get involved in gathering information then please feel free to contact me.

Reports Available

IAP News – September 2007

Women's Asylum News (WAN) – September/October 2007

Refugee Forum

Information

Employment Board and Newspapers

From the beginning of November we will have daily copies of the Evening Post for people to read, extra copies on a Monday (Housing) and Wednesday (Employment). We will also have an Employment board, where we will put any information regarding jobs available and employment opportunities.

Training and Meeting Dates

23/10/07
Anti-
destitution

02/11/07
2-4pm
Asylum Process and
Entry Clearance
(OISC)

05/11/07
6-8pm
Citizenship and
Nationality
OISC

19/11/07
6-7:30pm
EU/EEA
OISC

04/12/07
6-8pm
NASS
Asylum process

23/11/07
Refresher and
OISC Tests

18th December
Volunteer
Meeting
4:30 - 6pm

ALL volunteers welcome!