

The role of the Immigration Service Evidence & Enquiry Unit (E&E)

E&E is part of the Immigration Service Enforcement Directorate of the Home Office. Individual police forces may also have established links with local immigration offices. It is not the intention to discourage any local arrangements, which are already in place rather E&E is there to provide additional services.

There are three functions of E&E, which are of use to the police.

These are:

- to provide a central point of contact through which the police can ascertain the immigration status of a foreign national;
- to provide witness statements confirming the immigration status of a foreign national for use in court proceedings. Staff in E&E are also available to attend court to provide an "expert witness" in support of the statement or to clarify other immigration related issues;
- to provide police with access to the personal files relating to individual foreign nationals held by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. It is normally necessary for the police officer to come in person to the Unit's office in Lunar House.

Point of contact

E&E operates a telephone service, which is staffed. The office is opened on weekdays from 05:45 to 21.00 and on weekend 08:00 to 16:00. The Unit can be contacted on 0845 601 2298. It is normal practice to take the officer's details and ring back with the relevant information once the file has been obtained. Priority is given to cases where the foreign national is detained in police custody. The aim, in these cases, is to answer the enquiry within 45 minutes of the call.

