



Home Office

Entertainer visitors

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

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Entertainer visitors

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Immigration Rules paragraphs 46S-46X

This guidance tells you how to consider applications for entertainer visitors under paragraphs 46S–46X of the Immigration Rules.

Entertainers and those working directly with them can visit the UK for a short time to take part in certain cultural events, music competitions and charity events. They can do this without permission to work or applying under the points-based system.

There are no provisions within the Immigration Rules to grant:

- Indefinite leave to remain (settlement) in any of the visitor categories.
- Entry to the UK as a dependant of a visitor. A dependant or family member will need to qualify in their own right in one of the visitor categories.

There is a link to the Immigration Rules under related links.

Changes to this guidance – This page tells you what has changed since the previous version of this guidance.

Contact – This page tells you who to contact for help if your senior caseworker or line manager can't answer your question.

Information owner – This page tell you about this version of the guidance and who owns it.

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Links to staff intranet removed

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Key facts: Entertainer visitors

This page lists the key facts for entertainer visitors.

Category: Entertainer visitors	
Eligibility requirements	<p>The applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be genuinely seeking entry as an entertainer visitor for a period not exceeding six months • leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit • maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without using public funds • meet the cost of the return or onward journey • intend to do one or more of the following during their visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ take part as a professional entertainer in one or more music competitions ○ fulfill one or more specific engagements as either an individual amateur entertainer or as an amateur group ○ take part, as an amateur or professional entertainer, in one or more cultural event or festival on the list of permit free festivals, for more information see Immigration Rules - Appendix R ○ serve as a member of the technical or personal staff, or of the production team, of an entertainer coming for one or more of the purposes listed above. <p>The applicant must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits • intend to take employment • intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK • intend to undertake a course of study • be a child under the age of 18 • intend to marry or form a civil partnership • intend to give notice of marriage or civil partnership • intend to receive private medical treatment • be in transit to a country outside the common travel area.
Application forms	Applications made outside the UK – Online application (VAF1K where online form not available)
Cost of application:	UK Visas and Immigration fees
Entry clearance mandatory?	Only for visa nationals.
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes
Code of leave to enter	Code 3

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granted	
Entry clearance endorsements	<p>Visa nationals C: VISIT: ENTERTAINER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3.</p> <p>Non-visa nationals who apply for entry clearance D: VISIT: ENTERTAINER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3.</p>
Conditions of leave to enter	No work or study allowed. No recourse to public funds.
How long is leave to enter normally granted for?	Total stay must not exceed six months.
Are dependants allowed?	No – dependants must qualify as a visitor in their own right.
Work and study allowed?	No
Is switching into this category allowed?	No
Does this category lead to settlement (indefinite leave to remain)?	No
Is knowledge of language and life required?	No
CID case type	Visitor (Entertainer) – LTR
Immigration Rules paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration Rules – Part 2: paragraph 41(ii)-(viii) and (x)-(xii) • Immigration Rules – Part 2: paragraph 46S-46X (entertainer visitor).

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Changes to this guidance

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page lists changes to the 'Entertainer visitor' guidance, with the most recent at the top.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="490 403 831 443">Date of the change</th> <th data-bbox="831 403 1727 443">Details of the change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="490 443 831 632">16 June 2014</td> <td data-bbox="831 443 1727 632"> Change request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit free festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reworded to include the new list. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="490 632 831 746">18 March 2014</td> <td data-bbox="831 632 1727 746"> Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor housekeeping and plain English changes. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="490 746 831 1235">23 September 2013</td> <td data-bbox="831 746 1727 1235"> Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key facts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ heading 'Application forms' updated to reflect the move in some countries to online applications only ○ heading 'Entry clearance endorsements' added an entry for non-visa nationals who apply for entry clearance • Grant or refuse entry clearance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sub-heading 'The endorsement is' added an entry for non-visa nationals who apply for entry clearance • Minor housekeeping and plain English changes. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="490 1235 831 1343"></td> <td data-bbox="831 1235 1727 1343"> For previous changes to this guidance you will find all earlier versions in the archive. See related link: Entertainer visitor – Archive. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date of the change	Details of the change	16 June 2014	Change request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit free festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reworded to include the new list. 	18 March 2014	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor housekeeping and plain English changes. 	23 September 2013	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key facts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ heading 'Application forms' updated to reflect the move in some countries to online applications only ○ heading 'Entry clearance endorsements' added an entry for non-visa nationals who apply for entry clearance • Grant or refuse entry clearance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sub-heading 'The endorsement is' added an entry for non-visa nationals who apply for entry clearance • Minor housekeeping and plain English changes. 		For previous changes to this guidance you will find all earlier versions in the archive. See related link: Entertainer visitor – Archive.	<p>Related links</p> <p>Contacts</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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Entry or extension requirements

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you what you must check to see if an applicant meets the entry or extension requirements in the entertainer visitor category.</p> <p>When considering an application you must check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the application is valid• the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine• the applicant meets the substantive requirements of the category• there are no general grounds for refusal. <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specified application forms and procedures• Passports and travel documents• General grounds for refusal. <p>Entry requirements</p> <p>Under paragraph 46S of the Immigration Rules an entertainer visitor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be genuinely seeking entry as an entertainer visitor for a period not exceeding six months• intend to leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit• maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ out of resources available to them without recourse to public funds or taking employment, or○ be maintained and/or accommodated by relatives or friends who can prove they are able and intend to do so, and are legally present in the UK, or will be at the time of their visit.• meet the cost of the return or onward journey	<p>In this section</p> <p>Permissible activities for entertainer visitors</p> <p>Permit free festivals</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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- intend to do one or more of the following during their visit:
 - take part as a professional entertainer in one or more music competitions
 - fulfill one or more specific engagements as either an individual amateur entertainer or as an amateur group
 - take part, as an amateur or professional entertainer, in one or more cultural event or festival on the list of permit free festivals, for more information see related link: Immigration Rules - Appendix R
 - serve as a member of the technical or personal staff, or of the production team, of an entertainer coming for one or more of the purposes listed above.

The applicant must not:

- intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits
- intend to take employment
- intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK
- intend to undertake a course of study
- be a child under the age of 18
- intend to marry or form a civil partnership
- intend to give notice of marriage or civil partnership
- intend to receive private medical treatment
- be in transit to a country outside the common travel area.

Extension requirements

For an extension of leave, an entertainer must meet the above requirements and must:

- have been last granted, entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as an entertainer visitor
- not have already spent more than six months in total in the UK (or would do so if granted an extension of stay)
- not be in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying:
 - for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or
 - where the application was submitted before 9 July 2012.

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	<p>For more information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on the activities an entertainer visitor can do in the UK, see related link: Permissible activities for entertainer visitors• on overstaying, see related link: Applications from overstayers (non family routes). <p>For information on dual purpose visits and entertainer visitors switching into the Tier 5 (Temporary worker – creative and sporting) category, see related link.</p>	
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Permissible activities for entertainer visitors

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the activities a person is allowed to do in the entertainer visitor category.</p> <p>An entertainer and /or members of their production team, technical, support or personal staff, can undertake activities that fall into one or other of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• professional entertainer participating in one or more music competitions• amateur entertainer or amateur group participating in one or more specific engagements• amateur or professional entertainer participating in a cultural event, or events, sponsored by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a government recognised international organisation, or○ a cultural event or festival included in the Home Office permit free festival list, for more information see related link: Immigration Rules - Appendix R. <p>Examples of work that qualifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional entertainers taking part in music competitions, charity concerts or shows where the organisers are not making a profit and the entertainer receives no fee.• Internationally famous people taking part in broadcasts or public appearances provided they are not performing and are not being paid.• Those undertaking an audition provided this is not performed in front of an audience, either paying or non-paying.• Amateur entertainers here as individuals, or as a group such as a choir or youth orchestra, for a specific engagement. Amateur entertainers should not be paid but may receive reasonable expenses and be provided with board and lodgings. <p>Sikh religious entertainers (Kirtani players), as well as any entertainer intending to base themselves in the UK to work, do not qualify and must apply under either Tier 2 (General) or</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permit free festivals</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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the creative and sporting sub-category of Tier 5 (Temporary worker) of the points-based system.

For more information, see related links:

- Creative and sporting
- Tier 2.

Definition of amateur

The Immigration Rules define an 'amateur' as a person who engages in a creative activity solely for personal enjoyment and who is not intending to make a living from the activity. This distinguishes them from a professional person who receives payment when they participate in a creative activity.

Both amateur and professional entertainers may enter as entertainer visitors provided they are not receiving payment by way of fees or sponsorship. They are allowed though to receive cash prizes as well as board, lodging and living expenses.

Who qualifies as technical or support staff and officials?

To qualify as an entertainer visitor, technical, personal and support staff must be attending the same event as an entertainer coming to the UK as an entertainer visitor or as an entertainer under the permitted paid engagement visitor route.

Technical staff or production team members can include, but are not restricted to:

- conductors
- choreographers
- stage managers.

Personal staff of entertainers can also qualify. Examples include, but are not restricted to:

- make-up artists
- personal bodyguards

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- press officers.

Other activities open to entertainer visitors

Entertainer visitors may also undertake:

- permissible business visitor activities
- sports visitor activities.

For detailed information on these activities, see related links:

- Entry or extension requirements
- Key facts: Sports visitor.

Visitors undertaking permitted paid engagements

Where the applicant is seeking entry to undertake a paid engagement not covered by the entertainer visitors provision, they may be able to qualify under the visitors undertaking permitted paid engagements route (PPE).

The PPE makes provisions for certain professionals to enter the UK for up to one month to undertake a paid engagement at the invitation of a UK based organisation. The activities that can be undertaken under the PPE provisions are limited to those specified in paragraph 56X(iii) of the Immigration Rules and set out in the PPE guidance. See related link: [Visitors undertaking permitted paid engagements](#).

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Permit free festivals

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you the requirements organisers of festival or cultural events must meet to be included on the Home Office 'permit free festival list'.</p> <p>The Home Office operates a list of cultural events and festivals. Participants at events on this list do not currently need to seek entry under the points-based system (PBS). It allows applicants to enter for periods of up to six months to undertake engagements at an event or events listed in appendix R of the Immigration Rules.. The list is maintained through the migration policy (visits) team.</p> <p>For more information see related link: Immigration Rules - Appendix R.</p> <p>Festivals not currently listed in appendix R of the Immigration Rules must send their applications for inclusion before 15 August 2014 if the festival is scheduled to start from October 2014 when the rules will be amended to include any new applicants.</p> <p>A cultural event or festival can qualify for inclusion on the permit free list if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• it has been established for at least three years• has had an audience of at least 15,000 for each of the last three years• has an expected audience of at least 15,000 throughout the event• at least 15 non-European Economic Area (EEA) performers have performed for each of the last three years• at least 15 non-EEA performers have been invited for the current year• it is scheduled to take place between October 2013 and April 2014. <p>Evidence required to qualify for inclusion on the permit free list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• paper copies of the event brochures or programmes for the last three years• a letter from the Arts Council, or another such body if they support the event	<p>In this section</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible activities for entertainer visitors</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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- press cuttings relating to the event for the last three years
- confirmation of ticket sales, where applicable
- a letter from the local police or licensing authority concerning the cultural event or festival
- names, dates of birth and nationalities of all non-EEA performers for the last three years and the forthcoming event
- the group name, where there is one, of any group of performers invited and the names, dates of birth and nationalities (and passport number, where available) of the individual members of that group for the last three years and the forthcoming event
- other additional evidence if requested by the Home Office.

Applications for inclusion on the list must be submitted to:

Migration Policy (Visits)
Immigration and Border Policy Directorate (IBPD)
Home Office
Level 5, Vulcan House Steel
Sheffield
S3 8WA.

If festival organisers have a query about these provisions they must send them to the migration policy (visits) team inbox: studyandvisitoperationalpolicy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

The Home Office requires festivals to provide details of all non-EEA performers appearing at the 2014-2015 events no later than 28 days before the event is due to take place. Festivals that fail to provide this information may be barred from inclusion on the permit free festival list for the next calendar year or for the next staging of the event, whichever is greater.

Festivals which fail to provide the details of non-EEA performers will be given appropriate notice before any action is taken.

Where a festival is barred from using the permit free festival provisions, this does not mean they are barred from bringing in artists from outside the EEA to perform at the festival.

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Organisers will need to use the relevant route of PBS such as Tier 5 or the visitors undertaking permitted paid engagements route, to bring in performers and their entourage to the affected event.

Do entertainers still need to make an individual application for leave to enter?

If the organisers of an event fail to apply for inclusion on the permit free list, or if the event does not qualify, the entertainer will need to meet the criteria set out under the work routes (Tiers 2 and 5) of PBS.

If the entertainer is coming to the UK for unpaid engagements, they can apply under the entertainer visitor route. The permitted paid engagement visitor route is open to professional entertainers carrying out paid engagements for less than one month, see related link.

Visa nationals will continue to need a visa for their trip to the UK.

For the current list of permit free festivals see related link: Immigration Rules - Appendix R

Official sensitive – do not disclose – start of section

The information in this page has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use only.

Official sensitive – do not disclose – end of section

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Granting or refusing

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you when to grant or refuse entry or extension in the entertainer visitor category.</p> <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant or refuse entry clearance• Grant or refuse entry at UK port• Grant or refuse extension.	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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Grant or refuse entry clearance

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[Granting or refusing](#)

This page tells you when to grant or refuse an application for entry clearance in the entertainer visitor category.

Grant entry clearance

You must grant entry clearance if:

- the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 46S of the Immigration Rules, and
- none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply.

For more information, see related links:

- [Entry or extension requirements](#)
- [General grounds for refusal.](#)

Length of leave

Up to six months.

Endorsements

Visa nationals:	C: VISIT: ENTERTAINER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3.
Non-visa national:	D: VISIT: ENTERTAINER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3.

The endorsement must be valid for the date the applicant intends to travel to the UK.

Refusing entry clearance

When the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46S, or if any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320

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[Grant or refuse entry at UK port](#)

[Grant or refuse extension](#)

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	apply, you must refuse the application.	
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Grant or refuse entry at UK port

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you when to grant or refuse an application for entry at a UK port in the entertainer visitor category.</p> <p>Granting leave to enter</p> <p>Before you grant leave to enter, you must be satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of paragraph 46T of the Immigration Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46S of the Immigration Rules, and• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 to 321 of the Immigration Rules apply. <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry or extension requirements• General grounds for refusal. <p>For visa nationals, you must also be satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has a valid entry clearance• there are no reasons to believe the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance or that circumstances have changed since it was issued. <p>For more information on UK visa requirements, see related link: Immigration Rules - Appendix 1.</p> <p>Non visa nationals</p> <p>If you are satisfied that the person meets all the requirements, you must grant leave to enter for up to six months with employment prohibited using code 5N. Only use code 3 when you have doubts about the person but not enough evidence to refuse leave to enter.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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	<p>Visa nationals If you are satisfied that the person meets all the requirements, endorse the entry clearance with an open date stamp and record the statistical code 'ENV' on the landing card.</p> <p>Refusing leave to enter You must refuse leave to enter as an entertainer visitor if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46T of the Immigration Rules, or• any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 to 321 apply.	
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Grant or refuse extension

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you when to grant or refuse an application for an extension in the entertainer visitor category.</p> <p>Grant extension</p> <p>Before you grant an extension, you must be satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 46V of the Immigration Rules. They must:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ meet the requirements of paragraph 46S (ii)-(iii)○ have been last granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as an entertainer visitor○ not have already spent more than six months in total in the UK (or would do so if granted an extension of stay)○ not be in breach of immigration laws except for any period of overstaying for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or any period of overstaying where the application was submitted before 9 July 2012• None of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 322 to 324 applies. <p>If the applicant was granted less than the maximum six months on entry, you must make enquiries to find out why before you grant an extension.</p> <p>For more information on the above, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry or extension requirements• General grounds for refusal• Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z• Applications from overstayers (non family routes). <p>Refuse extension</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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	<p>You must refuse an extension as a entertainer visitor if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46P of the Immigration Rules, or• any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 322 to 324 apply.	
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Contacts

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you who you must contact for help with a specific case relating to entertainer visitors.</p> <p>If you have read the relevant Immigration Rules and this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your senior caseworker or line manager.</p> <p>If the question cannot be answered at that level, you may email the study and visit operational policy team, see related link, for guidance on the policy.</p> <p>Changes to this guidance can only be made by the guidance, rules and forms team (GRaFT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the study and visit operational policy team who will ask GRaFT to update the guidance, if appropriate.</p> <p>GRaFT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the link: Email: Guidance, rules and forms team.</p>	<p>Related links</p> <p>Changes to this guidance</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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Information owner

About this guidance	This page tells you about this version of the 'Entertainer visitor' guidance and who owns it.	Related links																		
Key facts	<table border="1"><tr><td>Version</td><td>14.0</td></tr><tr><td>Valid from date</td><td>16 June 2014</td></tr><tr><td>Policy owner</td><td>Migration policy (visits) team</td></tr><tr><td>Cleared by director</td><td>Sonia Dower</td></tr><tr><td>Director's role</td><td>Director, operational policy and rules</td></tr><tr><td>Clearance date</td><td>28 May 2013</td></tr><tr><td>This version approved for publication</td><td>Dave Beaumont</td></tr><tr><td>Approver's role</td><td>Assistant director, study and visit operational policy</td></tr><tr><td>Approval date</td><td>11 June 2014</td></tr></table>	Version	14.0	Valid from date	16 June 2014	Policy owner	Migration policy (visits) team	Cleared by director	Sonia Dower	Director's role	Director, operational policy and rules	Clearance date	28 May 2013	This version approved for publication	Dave Beaumont	Approver's role	Assistant director, study and visit operational policy	Approval date	11 June 2014	Changes to this guidance
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