



Home Office

Asylum Policy Instruction Settlement Protection

Version 4.0

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About this guidance

This guidance covers applications for Settlement Protection.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors then email Asylum Policy.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email Guidance – making changes.

Clearance

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was cleared:

- version 4.0
- published for Home Office staff on 02 February 2016

Official – sensitive: start of section

This information has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

Official – sensitive: end of section

- approved on 22 December 2015

Changes from last version of this guidance

- updated to include reference to interviewing
- removal of Ministerial Statement on change in country situation
- introduction of Safe Return Review

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Related external links

Section 1: introduction

1.1 Purpose of instruction

This guidance explains the circumstances in which the Home Office will consider an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR or 'Settlement') following a grant of refugee status and leave or humanitarian protection (HP).

This instruction must be read in conjunction with other key guidance products, in particular, Refugee Leave, Humanitarian Protection, IDI Chapter 8: Appendix FM: 1.0b Family and private life – 10 year route, Discretionary Leave, Restricted Leave, Revocation of Refugee Status and Revocation of Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Caseworkers can also find guidance on applying the criminality requirements of the rules in the General Grounds for Refusal and may need to refer to the following instructions, When to refer a case to the Criminal Casework, Referring cases to Criminal Casework, Rehabilitation of Offenders Act guidance and Criminality guidance in Article 8 ECHR cases.

This instruction applies to all applications decided on or after 19 November 2015.

1.2 Background

Those recognised as refugees or in need of HP will usually be granted a period of limited leave along with any dependants included on the claim. When their leave is due to expire, they must apply for further leave for themselves and any qualifying dependants if they want to stay in the UK. Settlement is a privilege, not an automatic right and provides permission to stay in the UK permanently and freedom from immigration control for those who still need protection. However, the need for protection may be temporary and if there are significant improvements in country conditions or changes in personal circumstances that mean someone no longer needs protection, they may be expected to return to their country of origin or apply to remain in the UK under other provisions of the Immigration Rules.

Settlement may also be refused to refugees or their family members where the behaviour of the individual such as their criminality, character, conduct or associations means they should be denied permanent settlement in the UK. Refugees and their family members will continue to receive limited leave where they still face persecution or serious harm in their country of origin or habitual residence.

1.3 Policy intention behind settlement protection

The policy objective when considering settlement applications from refugees and those with HP is to:

- ensure that the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) are met where there is a continuing need for protection UK

- ensure that safe return reviews are conducted to consider whether there have been any changes in country conditions or personal circumstances so that only those who continue to need protection benefit from settlement on this route
- ensure that war criminals and perpetrators of other serious criminal offences as well as those with a history of less serious criminality, cannot avoid the consequences of their actions simply because these were not disclosed at the time of, or have occurred since, the original grant of protection
- delay the path to settlement in the UK to those who have committed criminal offences or whose character, conduct or associations are considered not to be conducive to the public good, either permanently or for an appropriate period of time based on the severity of the crime to ensure all decisions regarding settlement are decided consistently

1.4 Application in respect of children

Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Home Office to carry out its existing functions in a way that takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. It does not impose any new functions, or override existing functions.

Settlement applications from children or parents with children included as dependants must be considered having regard to the section 55 duty. It is unlikely that the best interests of children will be a significant concern in case where settlement is granted because there is a continuing need for protection. Where settlement is refused and further limited leave granted due to criminality or character, conduct or associations, any dependants will normally be granted leave in line. As they will still have access to all the benefits and privileges that come with refugee leave, this is unlikely to have any adverse impact on best interests, but this still needs to be carefully considered in individual cases.

Where settlement or further limited leave is refused because there is no longer a need for protection or evidence has come to light that leads to revocation, careful consideration must be given to any child's best interests when deciding whether leave on another route may be appropriate. If there is no longer a need for protection, the best interests of a child cannot lead to settlement on this route. Best interests also cannot override the public interest in denying the benefits of settlement and seeking to remove criminals, terrorists or extremists.

In all cases where there are child welfare or protection concerns that may involve safeguarding issues within the family unit, the case must be referred immediately to all of the following:

- the Vulnerable Minors Team
- the relevant local authority
- the Office of the Children's Champion

In an emergency the case should be referred to the police.

Caseworkers must not apply the actions set out in this instruction either to children or to those with children without having due regard to section 55. For further information on the key principles to consider, see: Section 55 Children's Duty Guidance.

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Section 2: relevant legislation

2.1 The Immigration Rules

The provisions relating to consideration of settlement protection applications are fully set out in [Part 11 of the Immigration Rules](#). The specific Immigration Rules that are relevant are:

- [Paragraphs 339A to 339AC](#), which set out the circumstances under which a grant of refugee status under Paragraph 334 will be revoked or not renewed
- [Paragraphs 339G to 339GD](#), which set out the circumstances under which a grant of Humanitarian Protection (HP) under [Paragraph 339C](#) will be revoked or not renewed
- [Paragraphs 339R to 339T](#), which set out the requirements to be met for a grant of indefinite leave to remain for persons granted refugee status or HP or their dependants granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in line
- [Paragraphs 352A to 352FJ](#), which set out the criteria for persons seeking leave to enter or remain as the child, spouse or partner of a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection (Refugee Family Reunion)
- [Paragraph 34](#), which sets out the requirements for applications for leave to remain to be made using a specified form

All applications for settlement under Paragraphs 339R to 339T made on or after **2 June 2014** must be made on the relevant application form available on the [Gov.UK](#) website.

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Section 3: processing settlement protection applications

With effect from 2 June 2014, all applications must be made on the correct application form, [SET \(Protection Route\)](#) (SET-P), which is available on the [Gov.UK](#) website. In accordance with paragraph 34 of the Immigration Rules, this form is specified for all applications made on or after this date. This means that if any mandatory section of the form has not been completed, an application can be rejected without consideration.

Any attempt to make an application any other way, for example by telephone or email, must not be accepted. The address to send applications is on the SET-P form and the [Gov.UK](#) website. Applications must not be made more than one month before the expiry of leave or they will be rejected without consideration.

3.1 Data processing team actions on receipt of the application

The data processing team (DPT) will carry out the following actions:

- record the application on GCID under case type: Settlement Protection – ILR
- send letter ICD.4551 (combined acknowledgement letter and Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) enrolment) to the legal representative or directly to the applicant if unrepresented
 - include enrolment sticker
 - send within 10 working days of receipt of the application
- scan photographs of the main applicant and any dependants onto CID
- complete Standard CID Note for Data Entry
- forward the application to workflow to be allocated to a settlement caseworker

Incomplete applications received by DPT

If any mandatory sections of the SET (Protection route) application form are not completed, DPT can reject the application. If the applicant does not complete non-mandatory sections of the application form, DPT can request any missing information from the applicant. DPT will write to the applicant to request the missing information and if no response is received within 14 days, the application must be forwarded to a caseworker to process.

Failure to provide photographs

Applicants should provide 2 photographs of themselves and each dependant which must meet the specified format requirements. DPT must accept the application as valid if the applicant provides one photograph that meets the mandatory formatting requirements of the application form, there is no need to request another photograph.

DPT must accept an application as valid if an applicant cannot provide photographs because they are temporarily incapable of doing so, for example because of a serious illness or accident. The applicant must provide written medical evidence and DPT must still request photographs as soon as possible.

An applicant must provide photographs with their application unless there are exceptional reasons for not doing so. For example, it may be appropriate to exercise discretion if written evidence from an appropriate professional indicates that the applicant or a dependant is terminally ill or a new-born child in special care.

See Specified Applications Forms guidance for further details, including specifications for the format of photographs.

3.2 Initial casework action by the settlement protection team

Rejecting applications

Where the Immigration Rules state that an application should be made on a specified form and the applicant does not do this, or does not otherwise meet the requirements of the mandatory sections of the form, the application must be treated as invalid and will not be considered.

The Settlement Protection application form will be rejected if the applicant or any dependant listed on the application form is not any of the following:

- a person who was granted 5 years' refugee leave
- a person who was granted 5 years' leave on humanitarian protection grounds
- a dependant granted refugee status and/or leave in line with the main applicant on the initial decision
- a dependant granted leave on humanitarian protection grounds in line with the main applicant on the initial decision
- a person granted leave in line with a person who was granted 5 years' refugee leave or 5 years' humanitarian protection under Paragraphs 352A to 352F of the Immigration Rules (Refugee Family Reunion)

If the applicant does not meet one of these criteria the form can be rejected. If the applicant meets the criteria but has included a dependant who does not, only the dependant should be rejected. For example, where a dependant granted under refugee family reunion includes their spouse, the dependant can be considered (even if they are now over 18 years of age) but the spouse should be rejected. In such circumstances, the applicant (and/ or dependants) must be sent a written notice of invalidity, informing them of their error.

Although the rules do not specify a time limit for rejecting an application, this must be done as soon as possible. Caseworkers must complete all validation checks before rejecting an application. This ensures that the applicant is not given the impression their application is valid in all other respects, if their application does not meet more than one requirement.

Discretion

Caseworkers can use discretion and accept the application as valid if a mandatory section of the form is not completed but the applicant provides the required information elsewhere in the application, for example they do not provide the BRP number on the form but provide the BRP.

Caseworker actions

If the application is being rejected:

- mark the application as 'invalid', sign and date the top of section 1
- record the reasons why the form is invalid in the case notes field of CID
- enter 'reject' into the CID outcome field

Applications made early

Applications must not be processed until one month before the applicant's current leave expires. Any applications received more than a month, but less than 3 months, before the applicant's leave expires, should be held until a month before the leave expires and then processed. The file must be noted accordingly. If an application is incomplete or incorrect in any way, caseworkers must follow the actions above as soon as possible and not wait until a month before the applicant's leave expires to contact the applicant.

Applications received more than 3 months before leave expires should be refused using refusal letter **ICD.4227**, advising the individual that they are being refused settlement, that they have no right of appeal against that decision, and that they should apply again when their leave is due to expire within a month.

Applications made after leave has expired

Where an application is received after the individual's extant leave has expired, it is considered to be 'out of time'. Where an individual does not make an application for settlement before their leave expires, they become an overstayer.

Although a refugee does not cease to be a refugee when their leave expires, they can no longer benefit from any conditions that accompanied the grant of leave – such as permission to take up employment or access to mainstream benefits.

If an application is only a short period out of time (less than one month) and/ or there are reasonable mitigating circumstances then more detailed enquiries into the reasons for the delay are unlikely to be necessary and the usual process for considering settlement applications must be followed.

Where an application is over a month late or is made following contact initiated by the Home Office, for example through enforcement action, the individual must be asked to explain the reasons for the delay. Caseworkers must conduct a more in-depth case review to consider whether there is a continuing need for protection. In cases where revocation of refugee status or HP may be appropriate, the case must initially be referred to the Status Review Unit (SRU) using the appropriate pro-forma.

Up-to-date address identified

If an up to date address is identified (for example, as a result of enforcement action), the case should be referred to the SRU who will send the 'out of time' contact letter, reminding the individual that their limited leave has expired, and that they should already have applied for settlement. The letter should be copied to the last known representative.

This letter refers to the possibility of withdrawing the individual's refugee status, to give them fair warning of the potential consequences of not applying. If there is no response it may be appropriate to withdraw status and serve papers to file. Where a late application is submitted and it is inappropriate to revoke refugee status or not to renew HP, the case will be referred back to the Settlement Protection Team to consider the SET P application.

Overstayer comes to light

When an overstayer comes to light and their status has been withdrawn, with papers served to file, the individual may have a reasonable explanation for not having applied for settlement, or why they still need protection. In such cases it may not be appropriate to remove them.

In cases where it was considered inappropriate to withdraw status and serve the papers to file, when the individual comes to light it is important that their immigration status is regularised, or their refugee or HP status withdrawn, depending on the circumstances of the individual case. They should be encouraged to apply for settlement as soon as possible or leave the UK.

Where the individual fails to apply for settlement, or applies but is unsuccessful, caseworkers should consider withdrawing status, and possible enforcement action and removal. Prior to removal, consideration must always be given to paragraph 353B of the Immigration Rules. See Chapter 53 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance.

3.3 Application checklist

The caseworker must consult the CID Note for Data Entry provided by DPT, and the following application checklist to establish if there is anything missing from the application:

- full name, date of birth, nationality, Home Office reference number of main applicant and any dependants to be included in the application
- 2 photographs of main applicant and any dependants, with the full name of the individual on the reverse
- previously issued UK Residence Permit (UKRP) issued under paragraph 339Q for a continuous period of at least 5 years in the UK - (Immigration Status Documents or BRPs) of main applicant and any dependants
- travel documents or national passport (where held)
- birth certificates of all UK-born dependants, born after the initial grant of 5 years' leave

- evidence that the applicant's UKRP has not been revoked or not renewed under paragraphs 339A or 339G of the immigration rules
- criminality declaration

Where an application is incomplete the caseworker should send a letter (ICD.4210) to the applicant (or legal representative), requesting the further information required within 14 days. If there is no response after 14 days, caseworkers should send a reminder letter (ICD.4212) giving a further 14 days for the applicant (or legal representative) to respond.

Actions following request for further information – no response

If no further information is received, the application should be considered on the basis of the information available and where there is insufficient information to grant the application it should normally be refused.

Checking if the case is being handled by Criminal Casework

Checks must be conducted to confirm if the case is already live with, and being handled by, Criminal Casework. Where the case is live with Criminal Casework, the caseworker must arrange for the settlement application to be transferred to Criminal Casework. There will be no further action for settlement caseworkers.

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Section 4: requirements for settlement

When the caseworker is satisfied all necessary information is on file, they must consider the following issues by referring to CID notes:

- the information provided by the applicant with their settlement application
- the Immigration Officer's reports (on CID or on file, if the file is held)
- other information held on Home Office databases and files
- policy instructions, guidance and country of origin information

If necessary, caseworkers may consider arranging an interview to address outstanding issues. Where an interview is required, this must be agreed in advance by a Deputy Chief Caseworker and must be conducted in accordance with the guidance set out in the Asylum Interview (AI).

4.1 Requirements for indefinite leave to remain

The requirements to be met for indefinite leave to remain as a person granted refugee status or HP are set out at paragraph 339R of the Immigration Rules. Applicants must have held a UK Resident Permit (UKRP) for a continuous period of 5 years which must not have been revoked or not renewed. The Rules also enable the Home Office to delay granting settlement to those with a criminal history or where there is any evidence of extremist behaviours that run contrary to British values, either permanently or for set periods of time depending on the severity of the crime or behaviour. See [Paragraphs 339R to 339T](#) of the Immigration Rules and [Section 5: Evidence of criminality](#) below.

Evidence of a previously issued UK Residence Permit

Caseworkers must establish that the main applicant has held a UKRP issued under [paragraph 339Q](#) for a continuous period of 5 years in the UK. The relevant document should have been submitted with the application and this must be checked against information held by the Home Office to confirm the details. If the main applicant fails to meet this criterion, for example has only held leave for 3 years, the application for settlement must be refused.

Evidence that the UK Residence Permit has not been revoked or not renewed

Caseworkers must establish if the main applicant's UKRP has been revoked or not renewed under [paragraphs 339A to 339AC or 339GA to 339GD](#). If it has, the application must be refused. This should be evident from CID Notes, but caseworkers may also need to check the Home Office file for further details. See [Section 7: Refusing Settlement Process](#) for details on producing decision paperwork if either section above applies.

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Article 31 of the Refugee Convention

Article 31 of the Refugee Convention is reflected in section 31 of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#) and provides that refugees should not have any penalties imposed upon them as a consequence of illegally entering or being present in the country of refuge illegally in order to seek sanctuary, provided they:

- travel to the country of refuge directly from the territory where they fear persecution
- present themselves to the domestic authorities without delay
- show good cause for their illegal entry or presence

See [Section 31 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and Article 31 of the 1951 Refugee convention](#) guidance for details.

4.2 Evidence that the UK Residence Permit should be revoked or not renewed

If the UKRP has not been revoked or not renewed, caseworkers must consider whether there are any reasons why a grant of refugee status or HP may no longer be appropriate. This may include the fact that an individual no longer needs protection.

Significant and non-temporary change in country situation

In relation to changes to the country situation, this refers to changes that are significant and non-temporary such that a fear of persecution can no longer be regarded as well-founded. Caseworkers should note that the overthrow of one political party in favour of another might only be transitory or the election of a new government may not automatically mean that there is no longer a risk of persecution for the individual refugee. The changes must be such that the reasons for becoming a refugee have ceased to exist. Relevant country information reports need to be consulted to consider whether there has been a change in the country situation such that an individual no longer needs protection. In the case of stateless persons, the stateless person must be able to return to their country of former habitual residence for the purposes of residency.

Changes in personal circumstances

There may be cases where changes in personal circumstances mean the original reasons for the grant of protection no longer exist and the individual could return to their country of origin in safety. This must be considered on a case by case basis in light of the evidence available. Caseworkers must consider whether the grant of refugee status was for more than one reason. For example, a woman may have been granted on the basis that she refused to agree to a forced marriage. If she is now married, she may still face a risk of persecution if she has married without the consent of her family. They may also fall within another category of risk and as such, revocation would not be appropriate. Revocation action on grounds that the protection need has ceased to exist should only be considered where there is no risk of persecution or serious harm on any grounds.

Return to country of origin or habitual residence

Caseworkers must conduct checks to establish whether the individual has travelled back to their country of origin, or the country from which they sought protection, without the knowledge of the Home Office. Information about the individual's travel history may be found in CID notes, information provided with the settlement application, or the Immigration Officer's reports (on CID or on file, if file is held). Factors that may influence the decision to revoke refugee leave may include returning to the country from which they sought protection:

- on several occasions
- for long periods of time
- without notifying the Home Office of compelling and compassionate circumstances for doing so

If the individual notified the Home Office first, or only went to the country from which they sought protection for a very short period, or on a small number of occasions, it is less likely that consideration would be given to removing protection rights. Individuals should not be penalised solely for travelling to a country neighbouring the country from which they claimed asylum or HP. It cannot be assumed that the individual went to the country from which they claimed asylum or HP without sufficient evidence.

Applicant has obtained a national passport

Caseworkers must ensure all relevant checks have been conducted to establish whether the individual has obtained a passport from the national authorities of their country of origin, or the country from which they claimed asylum or HP. Where an individual has obtained a national passport, has travelled on it or asked for their conditions of leave to be placed in it (a 'Transfer of Conditions' application), then consideration must be given to whether it is appropriate to revoke refugee status or HP.

Evidence that the original grant of leave may not have been correct

There may be evidence to suggest that the individual was never eligible for the status granted to them by the Home Office, for example they may have obtained their status by deception. In such cases consideration must be given to potential prosecution for obtaining leave by deception and revocation action.

Evidence that a dependant travelled home or obtained a national passport

There may be evidence to suggest that a dependant with refugee status or HP has either travelled home without Home Office knowledge, or obtained a national passport. In such cases, consideration must be given to whether it is appropriate to revoke the refugee status or HP of the dependant.

Where the dependant has not been recognised as a refugee or granted HP, although there is nothing to prevent them returning home, if they have obtained a national

passport, the case must be referred to the Travel Documents Team to consider whether cancellation of any Home Office issued travel document is appropriate.

Referring cases

If one or more of the 4 scenarios in section 4.2 applies, the case must be referred to the Status Review Unit (SRU) to consider whether it is appropriate to revoke refugee status or refuse to renew HP, in accordance with the published Home Office policy instructions on Revocation of Refugee Status, Exclusion (Article 1F) and Article 33(2) or Humanitarian Protection.

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When caseworkers are satisfied that there are no reasons to revoke or not renew the UKRP, consideration must be given to whether the applicant and/or any dependants have a history of criminality or whether there is any evidence of extremist behaviours that run contrary to British values that would make a grant of ILR inappropriate. See [section 4.3 Refusing settlement protection on the basis of criminality](#).

Informing the applicant that the case requires further consideration

If the case requires further consideration, caseworkers should send a letter to the applicant (ICD.4208) or their representative (ICD.4209) which provides details of how to make enquiries about the application.

4.3 Refusing settlement on the basis of criminality or extremism

Where caseworkers have established that the individual or any dependant included on the application has a criminal record and that case is not already being handled by Criminal Casework, they must consider referring the case to Criminal Casework. See guidance on When to refer a case to Criminal Casework to establish whether the applicant or any dependants meet the criteria for deportation on grounds of criminality.

In some cases there may be evidence to suggest that the individual refugee or a dependant has espoused extremist views and behaviours. Article 33(2) of the Refugee Convention provides for the refusal of asylum to individuals who would otherwise be refugees but have been convicted of a particularly serious crime and constitute a danger to the community or there are reasonable grounds for regarding them as a danger to the security of the UK. This includes those who espouse

extremist views and behaviours. Where there is any evidence of extremism the case must be referred to Special Cases Unit (SCU).

If it is unclear whether the criterion has been met, the case must be discussed with a Senior Caseworker, who may consult with Criminal Casework colleagues directly.

Cases that meet the deportation criteria

Where the case meets the deportation criteria, it must be forwarded to Criminal Casework in accordance with the instructions When to refer a case to Criminal Casework. Home Office records must be updated accordingly when the case is transferred.

Applicants must be sent letter ICD.4208 (or ICD.4209 if represented), informing them that their case has been transferred for further consideration. There will be no further action for the Settlement Protection Team.

Cases where there are criminal charges pending

Where a main applicant or any dependant included in the application is subject to criminal prosecution and successful prosecution could mean that they meet the criminality criteria for refusal, the application should normally be kept on hold pending the outcome of the prosecution. Where the main applicant's and/or any dependants' applications are being placed on hold, the main applicant must be informed that their application will not be decided until the criminal proceedings are resolved.

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Cases where a Deportation Order has been enforced

Where it is clear that the main applicant or a dependant included in the application has been removed from the UK under a Deportation Order (DO), a settlement application may indicate that they have returned to the UK in breach of that DO. In such cases, the individual should be referred to Criminal Casework to clarify whether the DO has been revoked.

Cases where a Deportation Order has not been pursued

Caseworkers must check that Criminal Casework have already had sight of the case, and have confirmed the decision not to pursue a Deportation Order (DO). These cases must be considered by settlement caseworkers under Paragraph 339R of the Immigration Rules. See [Section 5 Evidence of criminality](#) below.

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Action to take in cases that do not meet the deportation criteria

Where there is evidence of criminality but the deportation criteria has not been met or Criminal Casework are not pursuing deportation, caseworkers must consider if the history of criminality would make a grant of ILR inappropriate. See [Section 5: Evidence of criminality](#) below.

Fraudulent documents submitted

To assert that a document is a forgery shifts the burden of proof to the decision-maker. The fact that official documents in the country of origin are generally unreliable is not enough to establish that it is forged. However, if there are concerns about the authenticity of any document submitted in support of a settlement application, guidance must be sought from:

- the National Document Fraud Unit (NDFU)
- the relevant country officer in the Country Policy and Information Team (CPIT)
- an immigration officer who has received specialist training

Referrals to NDFU, CPIT or immigration staff must be made via a deputy chief caseworker in the first instance.

If documents are found to be fraudulent, even if no prosecution is pursued, this may call into question the individual's character or conduct and call into question the original grant of leave and it may be appropriate to refer to the Status Review Unit via a deputy chief caseworker.

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Section 5: evidence of criminality

This section applies to cases where there is evidence of criminality but it does not meet the definition of a particularly serious crime set out in Section 72 of the [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002](#) and/or Criminal Casework have decided that deportation action is not appropriate. Caseworkers must bear in mind:

- refusal of the application will be determined by the sentence given not the actual time served
- all convictions (including spent convictions) count and the clock on the delay to settlement starts from the end of the latest sentence
- the amount of time passed since the end of the sentence as well as the sentence itself are relevant
- non custodial sentences and out of court disposals must be taken into account
- evidence of persistent offending demonstrating a particular disregard for the law or offences causing serious harm by the applicant or any dependants can lead to refusal
- it is the individual who is refused ILR: family members (dependants or the main applicant and other dependants) should still be granted ILR if they qualify and any delay in settlement applies only to the offender

5.1 Sentences of 4 years or more imprisonment

Settlement applications from those convicted of an offence and sentenced to at least 4 years' imprisonment must be refused.

There is no time limit on how long the Home Office will take into account a conviction in this category. If an applicant or any dependant included in the settlement application has been convicted and sentenced to at least 4 years' imprisonment they cannot qualify for settlement under Paragraph 339R(ii)(a) of the Immigration Rules.

An applicant or dependant refused ILR under paragraph 339T(i) may apply to have their UKRP extended for 3 years in accordance with paragraph 339Q. However, consideration must be given to whether section 72 of the NIAA 2002 applies.

For further guidance on applying the criminality requirements, refer to the General Grounds for Refusal Guidance and [Annex A](#) for standard refusal paragraphs.

5.2 Prison sentences between 12 months and 4 years

If an applicant or dependant was convicted of an offence and sentenced to between 12 months and 4 years imprisonment, the settlement application must be refused unless 15 years or more have passed since the end of the sentence.

An applicant or dependant who has received a custodial sentence of exactly 12 months should be considered under this category. An applicant or dependant who has received a custodial sentence of exactly 4 years should be considered within the 4 years or more category at [Section 5.1 above](#).

When calculating the end of the sentence, this means the entire sentence imposed, not just the time spent in prison. For instance, an applicant sentenced to 2 years imprisonment on 1 January 2013 will not be granted settlement until 1 January 2030 (15 years added to the end of the 2 year sentence imposed). An applicant or

dependant refused ILR under paragraph 339T(i) may apply to have their UKRP extended in accordance with paragraph 339Q.

After this time, an applicant or dependant may apply for settlement under the Immigration Rules.

For further guidance on applying the criminality requirements, refer to the General Grounds for Refusal Guidance and [Annex A](#) for standard refusal paragraphs.

5.3 Prison sentences of less than 12 months

An applicant or dependant who has received a custodial sentence of exactly 12 months must be considered in the 'between 12 months and 4 years category' in [Section 5.2 above](#). The settlement application must be refused if the applicant or dependant has been convicted of an offence and sentenced to less than 12 months' imprisonment unless a period of 7 years has passed since the end of the sentence.

When calculating the end of the sentence, this means the entire sentence imposed, not just the time spent in prison. For example, an applicant who is sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment on 1 January 2013 will not be considered for settlement until 1 October 2020 (7 years added to the end of the 9 month sentence imposed).

An applicant or dependant refused ILR under paragraph 339T(i) may apply to have their UKRP extended in accordance with paragraph 339Q. After this time, an applicant or dependant may apply for settlement under the Immigration Rules.

For further guidance on applying the criminality requirements, refer to the General Grounds for Refusal Guidance and [Annex A](#) for standard refusal paragraphs.

5.4 Non-custodial sentences

Settlement must be refused to any applicant or dependant who, within the 24 months prior to the date on which the application is decided, has been convicted of or admitted an offence for which they have received a non-custodial sentence or other out of court disposal recorded on their criminal record. For further information on what constitutes a non-custodial sentence see: Non-custodial sentences in the General Grounds for Refusal Guidance.

An applicant or dependant refused ILR under paragraph 339T(i) may apply to have their UK Residence Permit extended in accordance with paragraph 339Q.

For further guidance on applying the criminality requirements, refer to the General Grounds for Refusal Guidance and [Annex A](#) for standard refusal paragraphs.

5.5 Causing serious harm or persistent offending

References to an offence which, in the view of the Secretary of State causes serious harm includes, but is not limited to, causing death or serious injury to an individual or group of individuals. A person does not need to be convicted for specifically causing a death or serious injury. Examples might include but are not limited to:

- manslaughter
- dangerous driving

- driving whilst under the influence of drink and/or drugs
- arson

You must look at the circumstances and consequences of the person's actions which caused them to be charged with an offence and the impact the offence had on the victim.

This will include (but is not limited to) the nature, extent, seriousness and impact of the person's offending as well as the following non-exhaustive list of factors.

Caseworkers must refer to the General Grounds for Refusal guidance on applying the criminality requirements when considering whether to refuse settlement on the basis of persistent offending or offences causing serious harm.

5.6 Character, conduct or associations

Considering whether to refuse settlement on the basis of an applicant's or their dependants' conduct, character or association involves a case-specific assessment.

This will include where the person's conduct (including convictions which do not fall within paragraphs 339R(iii)(a-e)), character, associations, or other reasons, make it undesirable to grant settlement.

This includes those who espouse extremist views or unacceptable behaviours that run counter to British values. Where there is any evidence of such views it will be appropriate to refuse settlement. All cases involving terrorism, extremism and unacceptable behaviours, national security or war crimes must be referred to Special Cases Unit (SCU).

Caseworkers must refer to the General Grounds for Refusal guidance on applying the criminality requirements when considering whether to refuse settlement on the basis of character, conduct or associations.

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Section 6: granting settlement

If the applicant and any qualifying dependants meet the requirements of Immigration Rule 339R, settlement must be granted.

6.1 Documentation processing

Everyone granted leave of 6 months or more will receive a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) to indicate their status in the UK. If an applicant presents an Immigration Status Document (ISD) as proof of status and a grant of leave is appropriate, the updated document will be a BRP. Where a decision is made to grant settlement:

- check the status of the main applicant and all dependants included in the application
- cross reference previous status documents which they should have returned
- see [Grant / Refuse](#) section and Asylum Instruction: Lost, stolen, unserved or incorrect status documentation
- notify the applicant and all dependants that they need to enrol, if they haven't already done so, to obtain their BRP – see the asylum instruction: Implementing the substantive decision
- check photographs of the main applicant and any dependants included in the application are scanned onto CID and the 'condition code' is completed
- enter condition code 'ILR' - see [Grant / Refuse](#) section
- prepare a copy of check-sheet ICD.3667 (applicant) or ICD.3674 (where applicant is represented) - these will be automatically generated by Doc Gen on case outcome - see [Grant / Refuse](#) section
- enter the case outcome ('grant refugee i.l.r' or 'grant hp i.l.r')
- choose the relevant statistics category - see [Grant / Refuse](#) section for statistics categories and explanatory notes

For further details of how to carry out these actions, see Asylum Instruction 'Implementing the substantive decision'.

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Section 7: refusing settlement process

7.1 Refusing ILR and granting further limited leave

In accordance with our obligations under Article 24 of the Qualification Directive, applicants and/ or their dependants who are refused settlement but still need international protection will continue to be granted leave in periods of 3 years until the individual becomes eligible for settlement.

During this delay period, applicants will be responsible for making subsequent applications when their leave expires and may apply for settlement again when their delay period ends, providing they have not committed any further offences.

7.2 Case outcome

Home Office records on GCID must be updated with the relevant case outcome, either 'Refuse ILR, Grant (Refugee) LTR' or 'Refuse ILR, Grant (HP) LTR' with the relevant statistics category.

7.3 Further applications for ILR

At each 3 year renewal point, consideration must be given to whether there are grounds for ending the individual's refugee or HP status and removing them from the UK, rather than continuing to extend leave. Refer to [Annex A for the Standard Refusal Wordings](#).

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Section 8: dependants

8.1 Dependants included in the asylum claim or granted leave in line under family reunion

This section applies to dependants who were:

- included in the initial asylum claim and granted leave (and possibly status) in line when the main applicant was granted refugee status or HP in accordance with the definition of dependants set out in [Paragraph 349](#) of the Immigration Rules
- added to the asylum claim after initial claim but before initial asylum decision
- born in the UK after the parent or parents grant of refugee status or HP and granted leave (and possibly status) in line with the main applicant
- family members granted leave in line under the family reunion policy having met the requirements of [Paragraphs 352A to 352G](#) of the Immigration Rules

Children who are under the age of 18 must be included in the main applicant's form if they are still dependants of the main applicant and are applying for settlement at the same time. See [section 8.6 for Dependants not living with the main applicant at the time of the settlement application](#).

Dependants who are over the age of 18 and who were previously granted refugee leave and refugee status in line with the main applicant may apply on the main applicant's form, or using their own SET(P) form. See [section 8.6 for Dependants not living with the main applicant at the time of the settlement application](#)).

Dependants who are now over the age of 18 and who were granted leave to enter or remain in line but not granted refugee status under the refugee family reunion rules must be included as a dependant on the main applicant's form, and cannot apply on their own form. (See [section 8.6 for Dependants not living with the main applicant at the time of the settlement application](#)).

Spouses, civil partners, unmarried or same-sex partners can be included in the main applicant's application, or by using their own form if they have refugee status.

Spouses, civil partners, unmarried or same-sex partners with leave in line, who no longer meet the requirements of the family reunion Rules under which they were granted leave - for example because the relationship has broken down - cannot apply for settlement as the dependant of a refugee or person with HP. See [section 8.7 below \(Estranged Spouses\)](#). This section does not apply to those already granted leave in another capacity (for example, students) as they are expected to submit a separate application for further leave and meet the requirements of the relevant immigration rules under which they are applying to extend that leave. Applicants should be referred to the [Gov.UK](#) website for current forms and application process. If they are included in the SET P Form, the dependant or dependants must be rejected. See [rejecting applications](#), but caseworkers may continue to consider the application of the main applicant and any valid dependants.

8.2 UK born children

Children who have been born in the UK since the main applicant was granted asylum or HP, who are not British Citizens, and who may not have applied for leave in line, can be included in the settlement application on the main applicant's form. A UK born child must be treated in the same way as any other dependant child under the age of 18.

Applicants must include all of their children born in the UK since the original grant of asylum or HP in any settlement application and provide copies of the full UK birth certificate as part of the supporting evidence for the application. If caseworkers receive a request to grant ILR to a child not included in the application, the child should only be granted leave in line with the main applicant if:

- the date of birth post dates the settlement application and pre-dates the decision to grant ILR
- the appropriate birth certificate is provided

Caseworkers must carefully consider the statutory duty to children under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 when considering whether to grant leave to children not included in either the original asylum claim or the initial SET (P) application. Applicants should be asked to explain, if it is not clear from the evidence submitted, why any children were not included in the settlement application. There must be credible evidence of the relationship between the parent and any children not previously included. Where there are child protection concerns, the case must be referred immediately to a senior caseworker for referral to the Vulnerable Minors Team - see guidance on referring a child to child welfare agencies or the police.

8.3 Children born outside the UK

There may be cases where a child born outside the UK has entered the UK separately to the main applicant and has not been included as a dependant on the original asylum claim or the settlement application. They may either have refugee status in their own right or another form of leave that they can subsequently seek to regularise under the rules. There may also be children born outside the UK who entered the UK illegally and are seeking leave to remain.

It may be necessary to grant leave in another category before considering the settlement application. It may also be necessary to investigate the family relationship further to ensure that the child has not been trafficked. Where there are child protection concerns the case must be referred immediately to a senior caseworker - see guidance on referring a child to child welfare agencies or the police. These cases may need further investigation by the Status Review Unit but must be referred to a senior caseworker in the Settlement Team in the first instance.

8.4 Children born to parents with ILR

A child born in the UK after 1 January 1983 will be a British citizen if either parent is a British citizen or settled in the UK. The Nationality Act specifies that a person will not be regarded as settled if they are exempt under certain provisions of the 1971 Act, or if they are in breach of the immigration laws. Therefore, most children born after their parents are settled are British by birth in accordance with the British

Nationality Act 1981. If a settlement application is received from a settled person requesting that a UK born child is given leave in line, they must be advised that the child may be eligible for citizenship and should make the appropriate application.

8.5 Post-flight spouses or partners

If a spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner is listed on the application form requesting settlement as a dependant who was not dependent on the main applicant at the time of the original grant and does not qualify under refugee family reunion provisions (for example where the relationship formed after the original grant of asylum or HP) the caseworker should establish whether the new dependant has leave or not, and follow the relevant actions below.

New spouses with leave granted under the Immigration Rules

If the new spouse or partner has existing leave under the Immigration Rules, the caseworker should reject the application from the spouse or partner and inform them that they will not be considered as part of the main applicant's settlement application and that they should apply for any future leave on the appropriate route. See the [Gov.UK](#) website for further details and [rejecting applications](#).

New spouses with leave granted outside the Immigration Rules

Any new spouse or partner with extant leave granted outside the Immigration Rules should not be considered under the settlement protection route and should make the relevant application under the Immigration Rules - see the [Gov.UK](#) website for details of the correct application process details and [rejecting applications](#).

New spouses without leave

If the spouse or partner does not have leave and the Home Office is not aware of their presence, the caseworker should reject the application from the spouse or partner and inform them that they will not be considered as part of the main applicant's settlement application and that they should apply for any future leave on the appropriate route. See the [Gov.UK](#) website for further details and [rejecting applications](#).

8.6 Dependants not living with the main applicant at the time of the settlement application

Dependants may no longer live with the main applicant, for example a child who is now at university. Where the main applicant is seeking settlement on the dependant's behalf and has included the dependant's details, caseworkers should proceed as if the dependant still lives with the main applicant. If the dependant is unaware of their current status, for example whether they have refugee status and leave or just leave in line and they are no longer in contact with the main applicant, they should contact UKVI via the [Gov.UK](#) website.

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Dependants with refugee status

Where the main applicant is not seeking settlement on the dependant's behalf, and the dependant has refugee status or HP and leave in line with the main applicant, the dependant can apply on their own [SET\(P\) form](#). Caseworkers who receive a SET(P) application from a former dependant must refer to the main applicant's SET(P) application as part of the consideration of the dependant's case. If the main applicant has had their refugee status revoked, it will usually be appropriate to consider whether the dependant continues to qualify for protection based leave. Caseworkers must refer the case to the Status Review Unit (SRU) if any of the revocation criteria apply.

Dependants with leave in line only (not refugee status)

Where the main applicant is not seeking settlement on the dependant's behalf, and the dependant had leave in line with the main applicant but not refugee status, the individual cannot apply on the SET(P) form. If they wish to remain in the UK, they will need to apply for leave on another basis. Applicants must be referred to the [Gov.UK](#) website for information on what leave they should apply for and the appropriate application form.

If the dependant makes an application for further leave on the SET(P) form, they must be advised that the application is being rejected and that they will need to seek advice and apply for further leave on another basis if they wish to remain in the UK.

8.7 Estranged spouses

Estranged spouses who do not have status are not eligible to apply for settlement as a dependant of the main applicant. Instead, they should apply to regularise their stay under the Immigration Rules, or leave the UK. Where a caseworker is made aware of an estranged spouse who has not made an application to regularise their stay, they must refer the individual to the appropriate Immigration, Compliance and Engagement Team (ICE) to consider enforcement action. See ICE and RC Finder for details of the ICE and Reporting Centre that covers the applicant's address.

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8.8 Adoptions

In cases where the child has been adopted outside of the UK and adoption papers are provided, caseworkers should refer to the guidance Adopted Children.

8.9 Requests to add dependants following a grant of settlement

Children born before the SET(P) application has been submitted but who are not included on the SET(P) application will normally need to apply separately to be allowed to remain with the now-settled parent or family. Caseworkers must undertake further checks to ensure that the child is a member of the family and the applicant should be asked to explain why they failed to include the child on the original SET(P) application. For example, the parent may have only recently been reunited with the child. Caseworkers must check the original asylum claim to ensure the child was part of the pre-flight family unit (the children would have been included in the Family Bio Data details collected as part of the screening process, even if they were not included as dependants on the original claim). This should be used to establish why an application for refugee family reunion was not made.

It may be necessary to refer the case to a senior caseworker, and must be referred immediately if there are any child protection concerns.

An appropriate application would need to be made as the child of a settled person. Applicants must be directed to the Gov.UK website for guidance on the correct application form and process.

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Section 9: appeal rights

Where the original grant of asylum or HP remains unchanged but settlement is refused and limited leave is granted, there is no right of appeal. The decision to refuse settlement is not an appealable decision under the [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002](#).

If the application is unsuccessful because the Home Office has decided to take revocation action, the applicant has a right of appeal against the decision to revoke protection status under section 82(1)(c) of the Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (as amended by section 15 of the Immigration Act 2014).

This right of appeal against the revocation of protection status exists even if another form of leave is granted.

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Annex A: standard refusal wordings

Where the applicant or dependant does not meet the requirements for ILR, the application should be refused under paragraph 339T(i) of the Immigration Rules. If there is a continuing need for protection a further period of 3 years' Limited Leave to Remain should normally be granted where Settlement is refused.

The following wordings are examples – they do not constitute an exhaustive list of possible refusal paragraphs and caseworkers may need to include additional information relevant to the consideration of the individual case. The notice must specify the particular paragraph or paragraphs of the Immigration Rules they have failed to meet and why.

A1 Refusal Paragraphs

UKRP not held for 5 years

You have applied for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a person/ dependant granted in line with a person granted asylum or humanitarian protection but you have not held a UK Residence Permit for a continuous period of five years.

For this reason, the Secretary of State is satisfied that you fail to meet the requirements for indefinite leave to remain for a person/ dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and your application for settlement is refused under paragraph 339T(i) of the Immigration Rules.

UKRP has been revoked or not renewed

You have applied for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection. On [date] your [refugee status/grant of Humanitarian Protection] and UK Residence Permit were [revoked/not renewed] under Paragraph [339A or 339G] of the Immigration Rules.

For this reason, the Secretary of State is satisfied that you fail to meet the requirements for indefinite leave to remain for a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and your application for settlement is refused under paragraph 339T(i) of the Immigration Rules.

Criminal conviction and sentenced for at least 4 years

You have applied for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but in view of the fact that you were convicted of [offence] and sentenced for a period of [length of sentence] on [insert date of conviction] the Secretary of State is satisfied you have been convicted of an offence for which you have been sentenced to imprisonment for at least 4 years.

For this reason, the Secretary of State is satisfied that you fail to meet the requirements for indefinite leave to remain for a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and your application for settlement is refused under paragraph 339T(i) of the Immigration Rules.

Criminal conviction and sentenced for at least 12 months but less than 4 years in the last 15 years

You have applied for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but in view of the fact that you were convicted of [offence] and sentenced for a period of [length of sentence] on [insert date of conviction] the Secretary of State is satisfied you have been convicted of an offence for which you have been sentenced to imprisonment for at least 12 months in the last 15 years.

For this reason, the Secretary of State is satisfied that you fail to meet the requirements for indefinite leave to remain for a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and your application for settlement is refused under paragraph 339T(i) of the Immigration Rules.

Criminal conviction and sentenced for a period of less than 12 months in the last 7 years

You have applied for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but in view of the fact that you were convicted of [offence] and sentenced for a period of [length of sentence] on [insert date of conviction] the Secretary of State is satisfied you have been sentenced to imprisonment for a period of less than 12 months in the last 7 years.

Criminal conviction and non-custodial sentence or other out of court disposal recorded on their criminal record in the last 24 months

You have applied for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as a person/dependant granted in line with a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection but in view of the fact that on [insert date of conviction] you were convicted of/admitted an offence for which you received a non-custodial sentence or other out of court disposal recorded on your criminal record, the Secretary of State is satisfied that you were convicted of/admitted an offence for which you received a non-custodial sentence or other out of court disposal recorded on your criminal record in the last 24 months.

Grant of Limited Leave to Remain

The decision of [date of determination of refugee or HP grant] to grant you [leave to remain as a refugee / Humanitarian Protection] in the United Kingdom has been maintained. However, as your application for settlement has been refused under paragraph 339T(i) for the reasons stated above, your UK Residence Permit has been extended.

It has therefore been decided to grant you limited leave to remain in the United Kingdom for 36 months in accordance with paragraph 339Q of the Immigration Rules and in line with the minimum requirements under the EU Qualification Directive.

Your application has been determined on [date] and you have been granted 36 months leave to remain until [date].

Future applications

Before this period of leave expires, you will need to apply for a further period of leave. You can submit a further application for leave under the immigration rules when your leave expires. Advice on the application process can be found on the Home Office website. You should not apply for further leave until 28 days before your leave expires.

No Right of Appeal

This decision is not an appealable decision under section 82 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (as amended by the Immigration Act 2014).

Applicant has complied with the BRP process

The Biometric Residence Permit has been produced with information that you provided to the Home Office, if the Home Office has made any errors, or details have changed, you must notify us within 10 days. The BRP will be sent to you separately. You can usually expect to receive this within 28 days. If you have not received it by this point please contact me using the details at the top of this letter.

Applicant has not complied with the BRP process

If the applicant has not enrolled their biometric details, the following paragraph must be added to the decision letter.

You should note that this letter is not evidence of your leave, right to work, or right to access benefits and you are required to enrol biometric information (scanned fingerprints and photograph) in order to obtain a Biometric Residence Permit, in accordance with the Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2008 as amended by the Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. The accompanying biometric notification letter provides more information on the enrolment process.

If you fail to enrol your biometrics we will be unable to issue you with a Biometric Residence Permit which will be proof of your immigration status in the United Kingdom, and you may become liable to a financial penalty of up to £1,000. Without proof of your immigration status you will not be able to show that you are entitled to claim benefits or work. It is therefore important that you enrol your biometrics immediately so that you can be issued with a Biometric Residence Permit as soon as possible.

Before you enrol your biometrics you must:

- provide two identical photos of yourself with your full name written in black ink on the back of each photograph
- ensure all photographs meet the requirements specified in the Home Office photograph guidance - see <https://www.gov.uk/photos-for-passports>
- notify us if there have been any changes to your personal details as noted above because the Biometric Residence Permit will be produced with

information that you provide to the Home Office, if we have made any errors or your details have changed, you must notify us immediately

- be aware that we will not normally be able to make further amendment without charging you a fee for replacing the Biometric Residence Permit
- (if you are a child under sixteen) notify us if there has been a change to your Responsible Adult
- notify us if you have been convicted of a criminal offence since you made your application for asylum in the United Kingdom
- return any previously issued Biometric Residence Permit that you may be in possession of, otherwise we will not be able to issue you with your Biometric Residence Permit, unless you have already notified us of its loss, theft or destruction
- if you have not already done so, notify us if your Biometric Residence permit was lost, or, if stolen and provide the police report number, the police station and the date reported to the police

By enrolling your biometrics and providing your signature for a Biometric Residence Permit, you will be understood to be making a declaration that:

- the information you have given is complete and is true to the best of your knowledge
- there has been no material change in your circumstances and you are aware that it is a criminal offence to seek to gain leave to remain in the United Kingdom by deception
- you understand that your fingerprints and facial image will be taken and checked against immigration and police records and will be held securely thereafter in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998

You will also be understood to be making this declaration on behalf of any children under the age of 16 that you accompany to enrolment as a responsible adult.

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