

March 2015

Update to September 2013 Impact Assessment: Tackling Sham Marriages

Since the publication of the original Impact Assessment (IA) of measures aimed at tackling sham marriages, new information has become available regarding costs to the Local Registration Service (LRS) of gathering additional information and evidence from couples subject to the scheme outlined under Option 2 in the IA and of referring those proposed marriages and civil partnerships to the Home Office under the scheme. An announcement was made by Written Ministerial Statement on 5 February 2014 (column 17WS) as to the level of marriage and civil partnership notice fees to be paid in England and Wales by couples subject to referral under the scheme.

Following the methodology outlined in the IA, these changes in respect of LRS costs and notice fees have the effect of:

- Increasing net costs to couples subject to the scheme by:
 - £550,000 per year in the central scenario (£4.7m PV¹)
 - £590,000 per year in the low scenario (£5.0m PV)
 - £480,000 per year in the high scenario (£4.0m PV)
- Increasing LRS revenues net of costs by:
 - £250,000 per year in the central scenario (£2.1m PV)
 - £270,000 per year in the low scenario (£2.2m PV)
 - £200,000 per year in the high scenario (£1.7m PV)
- Increasing Home Office costs by:
 - £100,000 per year in the central, low and high scenarios (£0.8m PV)

The net impact of these changes is to reduce average net benefits of the scheme outlined under Option 2 in the IA by:

- £400,000 per year in the central scenario, from £15.0m to £14.6m (by £3.4m from £117.7m to £114.3m PV)
- £420,000 per year in the low scenario, from £11.1m to £10.7m (by £3.6m from £86.0m to £82.5m² PV)
- £370,000 per year in the high scenario, from £51.9m to £51.5m (by £3.2m from £417.8m to £414.6m PV)

Contact for enquiries: Asylum and Family Policy Unit, Home Office

¹ PV = Present Value [the sum of discounted values over 2014/15-2023/24]

² Numbers do not sum due to rounding