



In October 2007 the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr David Miliband) announced details of the assistance programme for Iraqi staff who had worked for the British armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq (The LE Staff Scheme).

Following a review of the Scheme, it has been decided that the final date for applications from employees who left our employment on or before 7 August 2007 (former employees) will be 19 May 2009. Any former employees wishing to make an application under the Scheme must submit it by 12.00 Arabian Standard Time on 19 May 2009. No applications will be considered after that date.

To make an application, contact your employing department:

Ministry of Defence – ukclaims@yahoo.co.uk

Foreign and Commonwealth Office – iraqLEstaffschemebasrah@fco.gov.uk

Department for International Development – difdLEscheme@difd.gov.uk

BRITISH EMBASSY

PRESS STATEMENT

CLOSURE OF LE STAFF ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, William Hague, has decided after careful consideration to close the Iraqi Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme to further applications. Our Iraqi staff have over several years displayed great courage and commitment in uniquely difficult circumstances, and we continue to owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. We could not have made our contribution to the rebuilding of Iraq without their service and, in some cases, sacrifice. Their welfare remains a top priority for us, but given the changes in the situation in Iraq since the scheme was introduced, the time is right for the scheme to now be brought to an end.

The ex gratia Iraqi Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme will close on 16 October 2010. Only serving staff that qualify under the terms and conditions of the Scheme on this date will continue to be able to apply for assistance. All such qualifying staff will have until the 16 January 2011 to lodge applications. Applications for assistance will not be accepted after 16 January 2011. The element of the Scheme which applied to former staff closed on 19 May 2009.

However, in addition, both former and serving staff previously given financial assistance will have the opportunity to apply, instead, for resettlement to the UK unless they were previously refused resettlement under the relevant scheme. The terms and conditions that were in effect on the date of their original application will apply. The closing date for applications to switch from financial assistance to resettlement is 16 November 2010. Applications for switching will not be accepted thereafter. For applications to proceed, applicants will be required to repay their original financial payment within 8 weeks of lodging their application. Failure to do so will result in their application being refused.

Staff can take up either option by writing to

IraqLEstaffschemeBaghdad@fco.gov.uk