



Home Office

**The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Border and Immigration's re-inspection of the Tier 4 curtailment process.**

## **The Home Office thanks the Independent Chief Inspector for his report.**

We are pleased that the Independent Chief inspector's re-inspection identified the progress made against the recommendations that UKVI accepted following his initial inspection. In particular, it is pleasing to note the acknowledgment of the new quality assurance processes, the new Curtailment Not Pursued process, the reduction in 'No Further Acton' cases, as well as the effective case closure processes that UKVI undertakes.

We are grateful to the Independent Chief Inspector for highlighting potential areas for further improvement on the work already completed, including the recommendation that UKVI continue to ensure consistency in communication with all Tier 4 sponsors.

UKVI rejected the original recommendation that a service standard be implemented for handling Tier 4 curtailment casework. We note the recommendation that this be reconsidered, and we commit to doing so once the ongoing work to improve the IT systems used to make and consider notifications is complete. This will necessitate a review of the curtailment processes and procedures, including those around reporting and sponsor feedback. UKVI will use the opportunity of this review to consider ways in which to make the curtailment process more efficient and consider whether, in light of this, it would be useful to introduce a service standard. In the mean time we note the Independent Chief Inspector's comments on the number of cases awaiting consideration at the time of his re-inspection and can confirm that the longstanding plan to address this with additional resource is now underway, with the number of outstanding cases having halved since the time of the re-inspection.

With regards to the handling of the cohort of 71,000 historic Curtailment Not Pursued cases identified in the first report, we acknowledge that there is more work to do, but would emphasise the importance of working through this cohort methodically and comprehensively to avoid unnecessarily pursuing enforcement action against those that have left the UK or remain in the UK lawfully. Since the first report was published UKVI has undertaken a series of actions against internal databases to identify how many of the cohort remain in the UK lawfully, and has reduced the number unaccounted for from c,71,000 to c.16,000. We are now pursuing phase two of this work which will involve using external databases to identify those within this cohort who have remained in the UK unlawfully and will be passing results onto enforcement colleagues for consideration.

This process will run until June 2018, after which time those with no current footprint in the UK will be considered to have left, and we will update the Independent Chief Inspector on our findings after this date.