



IAA Newsletter

January 2026

Welcome



Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter – my first one as the Immigration Services Commissioner.

It is a privilege to join the Immigration Advice Authority (IAA) at such a pivotal moment, as together we continue to strengthen our mission: ensuring that everyone seeking immigration advice in the UK can access safe, professional, and properly regulated services.

Since [I was appointed on 12 December](#), I have been meeting colleagues and learning more about the great work that is taking place across the sector. I look forward to building on this in the coming months with plans to meet our regulated advisers and stakeholders to find out more about your priorities and some of the challenges you face.

In this edition of our newsletter, you can read about our new promotional materials, as well as other updates including the latest on the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act and the Home Office consultation on earned settlement.

Best wishes

Gaon Hart
Immigration Services Commissioner

New IAA promotional materials

Our [suite of IAA promotional materials](#) has been updated, with posters and a leaflet now available in Tigrinya, Amharic and Traditional Chinese.

These resources are designed for use by regulated organisations, ambassadors, charities, and legal professionals to help ensure individuals receive reliable advice and avoid exploitation.

Please download and share the materials. Printed copies of the materials are available in English – if you would like to order some, please email lyndsey.kitchen@immigrationadviceauthority.gov.uk.

Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act receives Royal Assent

The Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill received Royal Assent and became the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 on Tuesday 2 December.

The new Act introduces a comprehensive package of reforms to strengthen the UK's borders and grants the IAA enhanced legislative powers for regulation and enforcement.

[Read more about the new powers on our website.](#)

New IAA guidance

We are in the process of refreshing our guidance, which will cover information on all the key stages of becoming an IAA-registered adviser.

The guidance will include the latest information, bringing together several existing guidance documents all into one place.

Further updates will be provided when the guidance, which will be published on our website, is live.

In the news - recent court results

Interim injunction secured against unauthorised adviser

On 12 December 2025, we obtained an interim injunction from Chelmsford County Court against Shazia Anjum. The Order, which remains in effect until further notice, prohibits her from the following:

- providing immigration advice and/ or services in contravention of section 84 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (the “Act”); and
- advertising or promoting herself as being able to provide immigration advice and/or services in contravention of section 92B of the Act

A breach of this Order may result in Shazia Anjum being held in contempt of court.

[Further information is available on our website.](#)

Convictions following EU Treaty Rights immigration scam

Two men were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday 6 January 2026 for taking advantage of people seeking immigration advice, including some of those most in need and some of the most vulnerable in our society.

The pair were convicted of separate offences, including providing unregulated immigration advice and services, and defrauding vulnerable individuals through false representation. One of the men also sought to advise individuals how to defraud and exploit the regulations that the UK public rely on to protect them from illegal immigration.

Syed Ali Shah Gilani, 51, from Solihull, pleaded guilty on the day of trial (16 June 2025), to three counts of providing unqualified immigration advice and services, contrary to Section 84 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, and was sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years to run concurrently, along with £11,000 in victim compensation plus a victim surcharge.

Risalat Hussain, 38, from Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty on the day of trial (16 June 2025), to one count of fraud by false representation contrary to Sections 1 and 2 of the Fraud Act 2006, and was sentenced to a £250 fine, to be paid within three months.

[Read more on our website.](#)

English language requirement changes

The new English language requirement for new applicants under the skilled worker visa, the scale-up route and the high potential individual route came into effect on Thursday 8 January 2026.

These changes are set out in the [statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 997](#).

[Guidance has been published on the UK Visa and Immigration website.](#)

Home Office consultation on earned settlement

In November 2025, the Home Secretary made a significant announcement about reforms to the settlement system in its proposed [fairer pathway to settlement model](#).

We are considering the implications for advisers and the immigration advice sector. A [Home Office consultation survey](#) will remain open until 11.59pm on 12 February 2026.



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