

## Immigration

### Recent Changes to Immigration Law

There have been various media reports about the potential for changes to the UK Immigration laws, and the government have now released information about changes that will be taking place from 24 November 2016. The full set of changes are of course quite lengthy, so we are setting out here a helpful summary of some of the key aspects that may affect our clients:

- The time limit for giving further information when requested by the Home Office in order to consider the application is being reduced from 28 calendar days to just 10 working days.
- The minimum salary for Tier 2 (General) experienced rate workers (not new entrant rate) is increasing from £20,800 to £25,000 but with exemptions for existing workers. Note that it is intended that this rate will increase to £30,000 in April 2017.
- The salary for new Tier 2 (ICT) Short Term migrants is increased to £30,000 (it is expected that this category will close next year).
- The Tier 2 (ICT) Skills Transfer category is closed to new applicants.
- Tier 5 Sponsors will be able to certify maintenance for dependants as well as main applicants.
- It will no longer be permissible to overstay for 28 days. There will be a maximum overstay period of 14 days and only with good reason beyond the control of the applicant. Overstaying by even one day will therefore in future likely lead to refusal of a visa or leave to remain.



It is not envisaged that most of these changes will have a very significant impact on the majority of our clients. Indeed, the ability for Tier 5 Sponsors to be able to certify for the maintenance of dependants will be welcome and will reduce the burden on the individual migrants in those cases.

We will of course keep you updated with any further changes as and when they are introduced. At present it is anticipated that the Immigration Health Surcharge will be extended to Tier 2 (ICT) migrants at some point this year, but no other changes are expected until April 2017.

If you would like our assistance with any aspect of Immigration Law then of course do not hesitate to contact us.

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