



Home Office

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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Chair, Home Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 April 2021

Dear Chair,

Proposed changes to The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2016

I am writing to inform you of technical changes to the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2016 which were laid in Parliament yesterday, 27 April, and which will come into effect prior to the summer recess.

This Order makes technical changes to the definitions of “premium services”, “transfer of conditions” and the scope of charging for biometric reuse in order to ensure the Order reflects modern service provision. This Order also amends the related provisions in the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018 to reflect the changes in respect of premium services and transfer of conditions.

Premium services definition

We are improving the definition of “premium services” to ensure it fully reflects the services already in place, and to enable us to continue to respond to customer demand for new services. A further amendment makes clear the meaning of premium services for sponsors. These amendments make no changes regarding the fee charged for providing these services, but clarify the meaning of “premium services” to reflect the way in which they currently operate.

Biometric reuse

Historically, a customer has needed to enrol fresh biometrics with each application, paying the required fee each time. Increasingly, the Home Office is able to reuse earlier recorded biometrics. This is more convenient to the customer than requiring fresh biometrics to be physically enrolled, though the department incurs similar processing costs which need to be met. We are amending the Order to improve the legal basis for charging a fee for the reuse of biometrics in this way.

Digital Status

The Home Office is moving towards the replacement of physical documents with online proof of migration status by the end of 2024. As such the wording of the Order is being updated to ensure it caters for modernised services and products. This Order amends the definition of “transfer of conditions” to ensure it covers digital as well as physical documents and also makes the relevant amendment in the Fees Regulations in this respect.

The above interventions will help to ensure the Fees Order continues to support a sustainable Migration and Borders system. I would be grateful for your support in making these changes.

I am copying this letter to Holly Lynch MP and Anne McLaughlin MP and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foster', with a large flourish at the end.

Kevin Foster MP
Minister for Future Borders and Immigration