



CONSULTATION ON CHARGING FOR MIGRATION SERVICES INITIAL RACE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING EXERCISE

OCTOBER 2006

What are the aims and objectives of the proposed policy?

1. The consultation paper on changes to the charging strategy for immigration and nationality services seeks views from stakeholders and the general public on whether our charging strategy should better reflect the end-to-end cost of the whole immigration system. It sets out a number of proposals on how we might do this, including moving towards an alignment of fees charged for in-country and visa applications. It also considers the introduction of a flexible approach to setting fees, including taking into consideration factors such as value to the UK in attracting a particular applicant and/or the value to the applicant in terms of the entitlements that are likely to accrue as a result of a successful application.
2. The consultation process will run from 30 October to 22 December 2006. We intend to introduce a new charging strategy and revised fees from April 2007. A full consideration of the impact of the changes will accompany the Government's response to the consultation next year.

Who will the policy affect?

3. The proposals will potentially affect all applicants for entry clearance or in-country leave to remain. The full race equality impact assessment will need to determine whether any groups are disproportionately affected by fee changes for particular routes and what appropriate steps could be taken to eliminate or minimize this. The consultation paper will not have an adverse impact on particular groups or nationalities.
4. The consultation paper will be available on the IND, FCO and UKvisas websites. Alternative formats will be available on request from IND.

Is there evidence that other groups experience the policy issues in a different way? How can I remove barriers to equality of opportunity?

5. The policy proposals support the delivery of a more effective, efficient and robust immigration service that has the trust of the people in the UK and maintains our global position as a country that welcomes the contribution that legal migration can bring. This in turn can have a positive impact on community cohesion.

Summary

6. The consultation paper will have no adverse impact. The development and publication of the Government's response to the consultation, including the determination of new fees, needs to be accompanied by a full race equality impact assessment, including appropriate measures to eliminate or reduce any adverse impact.