



Home Office

Border & Immigration Agency

STAKEHOLDER TEAM JOINT STATEMENT

Our Relationship with External Stakeholders

INTRODUCTION

This Statement aims to create a new approach to partnership between Border and Immigration Agency and its stakeholders.

It provides a general framework for working towards a better and more productive relationship and sets out the key principles and undertakings which will underpin this.

It will act as a starting point for developing our partnership, based on our shared values and mutual respect.

SHARED VISION

Border and Immigration Agency's stakeholders are able to contribute a wealth of experience and expertise on working with migrants and asylum seekers distinct from that of Border and Immigration Agency and the wider Home Office. In the development and delivery of immigration and asylum policies and services, Border and Immigration Agency and its stakeholders have distinct but often complementary roles and perspectives. Border and Immigration Agency recognises and values the input and the contribution that stakeholders make to achieving the best policy solutions and their effective delivery.

Both Border and Immigration Agency and its stakeholders can play a positive role, by communicating with the media and the public to help improve understanding of the key issues and move towards a more positive public debate. This in turn will support the objectives of social cohesion and integration for those who live in the UK.

SHARED PRINCIPLES

The following key principles underpin the relationship between Border and Immigration Agency and its stakeholders:

- Stakeholders play an essential independent role in the debate on migration and asylum in the UK.
- There is added value in working together. Meaningful consultation builds relationships, improves policy development and enhances the design, quality and delivery of services and programmes.
- Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholders have different forms of accountability and may have different overall aims and roles, but will conduct their relationship constructively and with openness.

- Working together to deliver key joint messages will help to positively influence the public debate in the UK and present an accurate and objective picture of the issues.
- Both Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholder organisations acknowledge the importance of promoting equality of opportunity, and of creating a working environment which supports a diverse workforce.

UNDERTAKING BY BORDER AND IMMIGRATION AGENCY

Border and Immigration Agency recognises and supports the independence of stakeholders, including their right to campaign and comment on Government policy. Border and Immigration Agency will endeavour to provide accurate and timely information to its stakeholders and wherever possible consult with stakeholders on new policies and procedures at the development stage.

UNDERTAKING BY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders will work to promote effective working relationships with Border and Immigration Agency within their own organisations and across the wider stakeholder community. Stakeholders will endeavour to engage in constructive consultation exercises and offer the benefit of their wider experience and expertise to reach the best solutions. During such consultations stakeholders will respect the confidentiality of government information where requested.

UNDERTAKING BY STAKEHOLDERS AND BORDER AND IMMIGRATION AGENCY

Both Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholders will explore the possibility of joint communications when there is common ground and this is beneficial to the aims of both Border and Immigration Agency and the stakeholder organisations.

Both Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholders will review and amend this statement on an annual basis to ensure it remains relevant, helpful and comprehensive.

TAKING THE STATEMENT FORWARD

This Statement is a starting point not a conclusion. Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholders are committed to working together to develop its application and effectiveness. Specific key actions which will be taken forward during the first 12 months to build on the statement include:

- the promotion of good practice, including the adoption of the shared principles outlined in this document by both Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholders
- identifying and trialling specific opportunities for Border and Immigration Agency to consult with stakeholders when formulating policy
- working with key stakeholders to identify high level key joint messages and agree a communications plan
- establishing a series of visits, secondments and loans between Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholder organisations.

KEY SUCCESS CRITERIA

The following success criteria have been agreed between Border and Immigration Agency and stakeholders to assist in measuring the effectiveness of their new relationship. These will be reviewed annually.

Stakeholder confidence

How confident are stakeholders that Border and Immigration Agency is serious about delivering meaningful relationships with them?

Provision of information

Has Border and Immigration Agency provided information to stakeholders to keep them up-to-date about changes to

policies and services in a timely and accessible manner?
Have stakeholders responded to requests for comments or information in a timely manner?

Code of Practice on Consultation

Has Border and Immigration Agency acted within the spirit of the Home Office Code of Practice on Consultation?

Consultation on proposed policies

Accounting for constraints of urgency, sensitivity or confidentiality, do stakeholders feel that they have had an opportunity to consult with Border and Immigration Agency on policy and operational issues at the earliest possible stage?

Consideration

Do stakeholders feel that their comments and concerns have been given due consideration during consultation exercises?

Explanation

Where their concerns have not been reflected in the way ahead, do stakeholders feel that they were given adequate explanation of the reasons why?

Working groups

How effective do stakeholders and Border and Immigration Agency consider Joint Working Groups and other fora have been as a key channel of face-to-face communication?

Added value

Are stakeholders and Border and Immigration Agency confident that new stakeholder communications are adding value over previous arrangements?

Acknowledgement of engagement

Does Border and Immigration Agency believe that stakeholders have publicly acknowledged their engagement with stakeholders, even where there is disagreement over the end results?

