



National Campaign for the Arts
Position paper: proposed fees for immigration services
7 February 2008

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The National Campaign for the Arts (NCA) is the UK's only independent campaigning organisation representing all the arts. It provides a voice for the arts world in all its diversity. It seeks to safeguard, promote and develop the arts and win public and political recognition for the importance of the arts as a key element in our national culture.
- 1.2 This position paper has been compiled to inform members, policy makers and politicians about the proposed fees for immigration services were laid before Parliament on 30 January 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Home Office is making comprehensive changes to the UK immigration system and introducing a new Points Based System (PBS). Changes include expanded entry clearance requirements, a sponsorship system, and changes to the routes of entry by which migrants come to the UK for both short visits and long term settlement. Expanded entry clearance will bring an estimated 30,000 artists who do not currently require visas into the immigration system for the first time.
- 2.2 The proposed fees for immigration services which were laid before Parliament on 30 January 2008 cover existing services and new services to be introduced under PBS. The proposals follow a targeted stakeholder consultation conducted by the Home Office in 2007. The NCA responded strongly to this consultation, presenting the artistic, inter-cultural, and economic case for ensuring that the UK continues to welcome artists from across the world and explaining the negative impact that increased fees and expanded entry clearance requirements would have on the arts.

2.3 Under PBS the arts sector will be primarily affected by the following costs:

Existing service	Current price	Proposed price	PBS service	Proposed price
Work permit	£190	£190	Certificate of sponsorship Tier 2	£170
			Certificate of sponsorship Tier 5	£10
Work permit visa	£200	£205	Tier 2 visa	£205
Entertainers' concession visa	£99	£99	Tier 5 visa	£99
			Sponsor licence Tier 2 (large/medium)	£1000
			Sponsor licence Tier 2 (small/charity)	£300
			Sponsor licence Tier 5	£400
			Sponsor licence Tier 2 & 5 (large/medium)	£1000
			Sponsor licence Tier 2 & 5 (small/charity)	£400

3. Proposed fees for immigration services

- 3.1 Fees have risen considerably in recent years. The NCA has campaigned consistently to prevent further increases and welcomes the proposal not to increase existing fees significantly, and to set fees under PBS along existing lines.
- 3.2 The proposed fees for certificates of sponsorship are per certificate (ie per person). However, the Home Office had indicated previously that a discount might be applied where artists were coming to the UK as a group. The NCA is awaiting clarification of this.
- 3.3 The cost of the sponsor licence is a new cost to the arts sector.
- 3.4 The NCA is concerned by the financial implications of expanding entry clearance requirements to all migrants from outside the European Economic Area. This will bring an estimated 30,000 artists who do not currently require visas into the immigration system for the first time, and represents a new and significant cost to the arts sector. It is possible that some artists may be able to enter the UK as visitors, depending on the outcome of the current consultation on visitor routes (artists attending festivals and some others might be able to use this route). Nevertheless, it is likely that many will not have this option and will be faced with visa fees for the first time.
- 3.5 For example, a group of American artists coming to the UK under the current system might pay a single fee for a work permit (£190) Alternatively, they might enter under the entertainers' concession and pay nothing. Under PBS they will pay for certificates of sponsorship (£170 for Tier 2, £10 for Tier 5) and a visa fee per person (£205 for Tier 2, £99 for Tier 5).
- 3.6 There is a serious danger that artists affected by expanded entry clearance requirements (many of whom come for short visits and are not high earning) might be deterred from coming to the UK. This would have a detrimental effect on the UK's world class cultural offer, with artistic and economic consequences.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The NCA recommends that the Government consider ways of reducing the impact of expanded entry clearance requirements on the arts and entertainment sector. The visitor route may be helpful to some but is unlikely to solve the problem overall and alternatives should be considered.

For more information see:

NCA briefing: Changes to immigration policy and pricing for a summary

NCA Response to the Border and Immigration Agency's targeted stakeholder consultation on Points Based System Fees.

<http://www.artscampaign.org.uk/campaigns/nationalpolicy/index.html>

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