

Circumstances for those subject to immigration control as of 19th March 2020

Collated Home Office Guidance

Substantive Asylum Interviews

The Home Office has confirmed the below to apply to all parts of the UK (England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)

Many of our applicants travel a long way to have a substantive asylum interview, which can be a lengthy interaction taking several hours. On that basis, we have decided to pause face to face substantive asylum interviews for now. That means we will be cancelling any that are scheduled from tomorrow 19th March and will not be scheduling any new face to face interviews for now.

In the meantime, we are exploring other ways to find the information we need to make our decisions; digitally, by telephone and by post/ email, for example. We can already interview people digitally from our offices or onsite in other location in some circumstances and are looking for support from digital colleagues to do that in a different way that doesn't involve us being in one of our offices. On that basis, we hope – availability of staff and applicants allowing – to be conducting those substantive asylum interviews again soon. I will keep you updated on any progress we make on that.

We are making every effort to keep the system moving, as we also seek to protect applicants and our staff. Please be assured that we are continuing to make as many decisions as we can where there is enough information to make a decision.

Further Submissions:

With effect from Wednesday 18th March, until further notice the Home Office has temporarily suspended the requirement for Further Submissions to be lodged in person in Liverpool. The Home Office is also cancelling all existing appointments. Applicants wishing to lodge a Further Submission in support of a fresh claim for asylum will be able to submit this via e-mail to a dedicated in-box or through the pre-existing postal route. The in-box for Further Submissions to be e-mailed to is : CSUEC@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Reporting

NB: Confirmed for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and expected to be the case for Scotland.

“ UKVI Reporting and Offender Management (ROM) Team have now confirmed reporting frequencies for reportees in light of the COVID-19 developing situation. The decision taken is that they will initially suspend reporting for all reportees and an SMS message will be sent out to reportees shortly advising them of this – see below in bold. The agreement is that reporting will be suspended for Non FNO's for 3 months. For FNO's, they will all be moved to monthly reporting. They will then, via SMS, inform reportees of the change to their reporting and when they should next report.

Source: **Reporting and Offender Management, Immigration Enforcement, Sheffield Reporting Centre, Vulcan House – Steel Millsands I Sheffield I S3 8NU**
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