



Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair
Home Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 March 2025

Dear Chair,

**CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY (FEES) REGULATIONS 2018
AND PASSPORT (FEES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022**

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018 and the Passport (Fees) Regulations 2022. These changes have been made through a Statutory Instrument (The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2025), which was laid on 19 March 2025. The changes in respect of immigration and nationality fees and in relation to amendments to the Immigration Rules will come into effect on 9 April 2025. The changes in respect of passport and travel document fees will come into effect on 10 April 2025, and the changes in fees for assessment of overseas qualification will come into effect on 1 May 2025.

These changes are as follows:

Changes to Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) fees

An ETA is a permission to travel in electronic form (linked to an individual's passport) which specified individuals will be required to apply for and obtain in advance of their journey to the United Kingdom. A fee of £10 was set for the initial rollout phase of the scheme in Autumn 2023, with the intention for this fee level to be reviewed in advance of full rollout. Following completion of that review, this amendment will now increase the fee to £16.

Changes to Certificate of Sponsorship/Sponsor a Worker and Sponsor Licence Fees

Under the arrangements for sponsorship on work routes, employers are required to assign a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) to employees who need a visa to work and stay in the United Kingdom. The individuals then apply for a permission to enter or stay in the United Kingdom as a sponsored worker based upon the CoS issued to them. This system will eventually be replaced by the Sponsor a Worker (SaW) process which has begun to be rolled out on a phased basis.

These Regulations will increase sponsorship fees, with the £239 fee increasing to £525 and the £25 fee increasing to £55. Additionally, there will be a 7% increase to sponsor licence

fees. These include fees payable by large and small sponsors, and for student and temporary worker sponsor licences.

Changes to wider immigration and nationality fees

These Regulations will also apply increases of between 5% and 10% to wider immigration and nationality fees, across a broad range of application categories, including work, study, visit, settlement, entry clearance, leave to remain and citizenship. Details of the changes to specific fees will be set out on Gov.UK.

Changes to passport and travel document fees

Fees for standard online, postal and frequent traveller passports, as well as for priority applications, are increasing by circa 7% to bring them closer to recovering the full cost of processing passport applications and operating related functions. Travel document fees, which are typically set in line with the fees for online passport applications, are being increased by 15-16% to reflect the changes in this instrument as well as a previous increase to passport fees in Spring 2024.

Changes to fees for assessment of overseas qualification and removal of fees for electronic statements and fast track services

These Regulations will also make changes in respect of fees charged by a third-party supplier, Ecctis Ltd, for English language proficiency and qualification equivalency services provided on behalf of the department. Currently, a fee of £140 is charged for a standalone English proficiency assessment and a £210 fee for qualification equivalency services. Additional fees are also charged for delivery of an e-statement certifying the outcome of the assessment and for optional fast track services.

Following a review of services that will be provided by Ecctis Ltd under a new contract with the Home Office, a decision has been made to enhance the English Language proficiency assessment, and no longer offer the optional fast track services for the English language proficiency assessment, and electronic statements (e-Statements).

Accordingly, these Regulations will remove the fee for an e-Statement and fast track service provided by Ecctis Ltd from 1 May 2025, and increase the current £140 fee for the English language proficiency assessment such that there will now be a single £210 fee payable under the Regulations for services provided by Ecctis Ltd. on behalf of the department.

Technical Amendments due to simplification of the Immigration Rules and Immigration Rules changes

These Regulations update a reference to 'Part 7' of the Immigration Rules in an existing fee exemption to reference Appendix Afghan Relocations and Assistance, reflecting a change to the Immigration Rules introduced in October 2022 (HC 719). This provision exempts the application fee for eligible Afghan citizens and their dependent family members to relocate to, or settle in, the UK where the Ministry of Defence has decided they meet the requirements for relocation to the UK as an eligible Afghan citizen under the ARAP. Though the reference to Immigration Rules was not updated in October 2022, it has not impacted any individuals, and this update does not represent a change in policy.

These Regulations will also make certain amendments to references in the Fees Regulations that are consequential to changes made to the Immigration Rules on 12 March. These changes substitute the previous names of appendices or parts of the rules with new names of appendices set out in the Immigration Rules. These changes are related to Appendix Child staying with or joining a non-parent relative (Protection) (Appendix CNP) and Appendix Family Reunion (Protection) which will be newly named as Appendix Child Relative (Sponsors with Protection) and Appendix Family Reunion (Sponsors with Protection) respectively.

The above interventions will help to ensure that the department's fees framework continues to support the sustainable funding of the migration and borders system, while aligning with broader changes in the system. I would be grateful for your support in making these amendments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seema Malhotra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Seema Malhotra MP
Minister for Migration & Citizenship