



# Changes to the Tier 4 immigration regulations from 06 April 2012

Rosemary Royds

Director: Registry Services





- 1) Changes to number of HTS institutions (4,000+ → 2,124)
- 2) New, stricter criteria with an increased inspection regime to monitor immigration compliance performance
- 3) PSW T1 closed; T2 permits graduates to access sponsored skilled work; T1 Graduate Entrepreneur (10) route
- 4) Work placements coming under scrutiny
- 5) No more than 5 years leave to study at degree level and above (excluding PhD) and may not include extensions for resits or repeats
- 6) Whether taught at York or elsewhere, students may not enter a programme at the same level as their previous study
- 7) Visa now curtailed with Leave of Absence approval
- 8) No additional leave granted for PhD students who exceed 8 years study in Tier 4



There has been a significant increase in fees for sponsors and for students.

UKBA see sponsorship as the central point for managing compliance with the Points Based System. A robust visit regime is believed to be essential to ensure compliance and prevent abuse. The intention is to drive down the numbers in Tier 4.

Introducing ‘intelligence-led compliance’ collated from the Sheffield Intelligence Hub, information received from caseworkers, Border Force, Police, other students and from members of the public. “Cluster” inspections possible.

A robust recruitment and monitoring process is required of each HTS institution, and this is part of what is checked in inspection visits



# Targeted Operations

**Red:** national operations,  
external resource e.g.  
Police

**Amber:** monthly tasking  
issued by central  
operations and regionally  
identified targets

**Green:** Decision related  
visits





A minimum of 50% of visits will be unannounced. They may be initiated because of 'intelligence' received, or as part of a license renewal.

Uniformed Sponsorship Investigation Teams have been formed, and inspection teams will expect to see the records of between 30 and 150 students when they visit, and to be able to interview those students.

Visits will be undertaken in line with their published guidance – “Sponsor Management Guidance”



Lack of records on the day of an inspection – whether announced or unannounced – and the HTS licence will be suspended until resolved

Quality of record is important. For example copies of e-mails or sign-in sheets as sole evidence will not be acceptable. Additional evidence will be required to establish ‘engagement’

If unsatisfactory, license revoked, or downgraded followed by action plan and review



Inspection teams expect :

- \* **Access to premises**, announced or unannounced;
- \* **Co-operation** and **provision** of documents;
- \* Help in **organising** student interviews

They will check:

- \* Recruitment practices
- \* Immigration Status
- \* Student contact details, addresses and locations
- \* Record-keeping
- \* Checking and Monitoring practices
- \* Partnerships and Placement arrangements
- \* Timetables
- \* Attendance records



## Improvements to weekly PBIS report to departments:

- Will need to confirm arrival of new students only
- All compliance chasing to be handled by PBIS Office
  
- **New monthly PBIS report** identifying all Tier Four students within the department, to support attendance monitoring and improve record accuracy
  
- **Creation of a termly report** to all departments to confirm the engagement of their Tier Four students three times per academic year
  
- New report suite expected to be ready for start of May 2012
  
- What else would help?