



Belfast City Council
OPENCities Local Action Plan
2011

Annex: B – UK Immigration Policy Table 1971-2009



Annex B - UK Immigration Policy 1971-2007

Policy/Legislation	Type	Year	Overview
Immigration Act	Act of Parliament	1971	Focused on legislation and established strong control procedures, which included new legal distinctions between the rights of the UK born/UK passport-holders and people from former British colonies- who became subject to Immigration Laws
Race Relations Act	Act of Parliament	1976	Integration, inspired by US Civil Rights Movement
British Nationality Act	Act of Parliament	1981	Removed the automatic right of citizenship to all those born on British soil
Asylum & Immigration Appeals Act	Acts of Parliament	1993	Limits and control on Asylum Seeker movement
Immigration & Asylum Act	Acts of Parliament	1996	Increased limits on Asylum Seeker numbers and reduction in welfare provision
Fairer, Faster & Firmer: A Modern Approach to Immigration & Asylum	White Paper	1998	Instituted new controls but also a "covenant" with asylum seekers; emphasized "joined up" government and the need for administrative overhaul.
Human Rights Act	Parliamentary Act	1998	Incorporated the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law, giving human rights the status of "higher law."
Immigration & Asylum Act	Parliamentary Act	1999	Created a "covenant" with asylum seekers but generally restrictive; made provisions for a new welfare support system (the National Asylum Support Service).
Race Relations (Amendment) Act	Parliamentary Act	2000	Broadened antidiscrimination legislation to police and immigration service and created "positive duty" for race equality on public authorities.
Antiterrorism, Crime & Security Act	Parliamentary Act	2001	Part 4 of the act legislated that suspected terrorists who were immigrants could be interned (potentially on a permanent basis). The Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) reviews decisions, but the act does not permit judicial review of the SIAC.
Secure Borders, Safe Havens: Integration with Diversity in Modern Britain	White Paper	2002	Set out comprehensive reform, including the goal of "managed migration"
The Nationality, Immigration & Asylum Act	Parliamentary Act	2002	Increased restrictions on asylum (breaking the previous "covenant") and new enforcement powers, but noted support of economic migration.



Highly Skilled Migrant Program (HSMP)	Change to regulations	2002	Created an immigration scheme based on points that aims to attract high-skilled migrants.
Asylum & Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act	Parliamentary Act	2004	Further reduced asylum appeal rights and other restrictive measures.
Controlling our Borders: Making Migration Work for Britain	Policy strategy	2005	A race-equality strategy designed to cut across government, complemented by a cross-cutting, race-equality target, and overseen by a board of senior public figures.
Integration Matters: The National Integration Strategy for Refugees	Policy Strategy	2005	Strategy meant to integrate refugees, including new "integration loans" and the piloting of a one-to-one caseworker model. Built on strategy formulated in 2000.
A Points-Based System: Making Migration Work for Britain	Policy Strategy	2006	Proposed a five-tier economic migration system. Tiers equate to categories: (1) high skilled, (2) skilled with job offer, (3) low skilled, (4) students, and (5) miscellaneous.
Immigration, Asylum, & Nationality (IAN) Act	Parliamentary Act	2006	Mainly focused on immigration (rather than asylum), it included restrictions on appeal rights, sanctions on employers of unauthorized labour, and a tightening of citizenship rules.
Fair, Effective, Transparent & Trusted: Rebuilding Confidence in Our Immigration System	Reform Strategy	2006	Created the arm's-length Border and Immigration Agency, which replaced the Immigration and Nationality Directorate on April 2, 2007.
Enforcing the Rules: A Strategy to Ensure & Enforce Compliance with Our Immigration Laws	Policy Strategy	2007	Called for secure border control built on biometric visas and greater checks.
UK Borders Bill	Parliamentary Bill	2007	Proposes police powers for immigration officers and a requirement that foreign nationals must have a Biometric Immigration Document (BID).
Borders, Citizenship & Immigration Act	Parliamentary Act	2009	Merges customs & immigration powers in a unified border force and provides extensive powers to immigration officers. Introduced new Pathway to Citizenship requirements due to come into force in 2011.

Source: International Passenger Survey¹



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/international_passenger_survey.asp

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