

Compliance: Sponsor management

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PBS Sponsorship

Sponsorship is the <u>central compliance arm</u> of the Points Based System

Sponsor compliance is key to tackling illegal working and abuse of the student route

The introduction of sponsorship <u>increased Agency contact</u> with immigration system users

To manage this a **robust visit regime** is essential





Immigration Control

Recruitment is genuine and robust

Importance of **Immigration Status** is understood and monitored

A **continuity check** is maintained

This is the part that **you** have to play – and what **we** will check





SECURING OUR BORDER CONTROLLING MIGRATION

currently have over 28,000 sponsors across all tiers of the Points Based System

Since each tier went live:

Tier 2

22,751 sponsors

1% of the sponsors issue nearly 50% of all CoS

Tier 4

2,124 sponsors

Before PBS, there were over 4,000 institutions registered to bring in overseas students

Tier 5

3,503 sponsors

The largest group of sponsors in Tier 5 is from the Arts and Entertainment sector



OUR BORDER Elligence led compliance model

Intelligence Sources

MIGRATION

Sheffield

Intelligence Hub

Caseworkers

International Group

Borders

Casework - Sheffield

Sponsorship Caseworking Operations

- Pre Licence visits commissioned
- Decisions on sponsor licence apps
- Decisions on HTS applications
- •Maintenance: managing personnel changes and extra CoS and CAS requests

Sponsor Compliance Unit

- Post Licence visit commissions
- Suspension/Revocation and re-rates
- Sponsorship Investigations
- Litigation

Sponsorship Support

- Sponsorship Operational Support
- Operational guidance and training

Sponsorship Operational Policy

Operational Policy

Visits Commissioned

> Visit Reports + Local Intel

Visits Commissioned

Visit Reports + Local Intel

Visiting Teams

London & SE

Midlands

NW

Scotland & NI

NEYH

Wales & SW

The Challenge

28,000 Sponsors 250 Sponsorship staff

= 112 sponsors per person





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





Trend Management

Sponsorship Investigations Team

Dedicated Desk Officers



Coordinate visits and outcomes



We may also see you.....

At the request of the sponsor – **help and advice**

Officers attend events and forums

Fact-finding visits – for example specific students

<u>Issue meetings</u> – for example partnerships





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What can you expect?





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Determine the type of visit – and make appropriate security checks

Undertake necessary research e.g. previous interactions

Plan **scope of visit** – how many files, how many students?

Inform sponsor – if an **announced** visit





OUR BORI ER What areas will we check

Monitoring immigration status and preventing illegal employment

Control

Maintaining migrant contact details

Continuity

Record keeping and recruitment practices

Recruitment

Migrant checking and monitoring

Continuity



Other sponsor checks:

This may include areas such as partnership links and course types

Student Interviews:

- Not intended to be an interrogation
- This is about student welfare and experiences
- Not necessarily about sponsor compliance although issues maybe identified from these interviews





OUR BORI ER You can expect

Professional and courteous approach with a willingness to discuss issues

Staff to be in **uniform** and have appropriate identification

Visit to be undertaken in line with published guidance – "Sponsor Management Guidance"





OUR BORI ER We will not provide

A decision on the day of the visit

Instant answers to questions on all areas of UK Border Agency activity (although the officer should take the question away and provide an answer in due course)

Disclosure of intelligence sources





OUR BORI ER What we expect

Access to premises – announced or unannounced

Cooperation and provision of documents

Assistance in organising student interviews





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We will provide you with a **copy of the visit report** once our action is completed

We are actively seeking to improve our methods of **gathering of feedback** from visits

Complaints, queries or even positive feedback regarding visits? We have introduced the role of "Regional Liaison Officer" – Lizzi Thompson. You can contact her at:

Sponsormanagementdesk@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



OUR BORI ER Compliance Improvement Work

New **guidance** – available on our website

New **report formats** and mechanisms

Re-focused the visiting role and introduced **uniforms**

Implemented a new tasking model

National Steering Group – regional consistency of approach

Developing a new training package for officers



OUR BORDER CONTROLLING ues to Consider

What would help you to further understand our expectations?

- How can we gain a better on-going understanding of your experiences?
- Anything we should consider for our overall improvement strategy?