



Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023

United Kingdom

UK resumes priority processing of Family Visa applications in the Settlement category

Executive summary

On 20 February 2023, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) resumed priority services (i.e., expedited processing) for foreign nationals applying for new Family Visas under the Settlement category.

Background

Family Visas are available to dependents (e.g., spouses, partners and family members of British and Irish citizens and individuals who settled in the UK) seeking to join their family members and reside in the UK for more than six months. Following the start of the conflict in Ukraine and in response to the resulting humanitarian crisis, UKVI began prioritizing applications filed under the Ukraine Visa Scheme. As a result, UKVI suspended priority services and is processing Family Visa applications submitted by applicants located outside the UK within 24 weeks of completing their biometrics.

Key developments

Effective 20 February 2023, priority visa services have resumed for new Family Visa applications. Applications processed on a priority basis are adjudicated within 30 days to six weeks from the date the applicant submits their biometrics. Applicants may avail of priority services by paying a fee of £573 at the time of submitting their application. Priority services are only available for applications filed on or after 20 February 2023 and may not be purchased retrospectively.

Impact on employers

The resumption of priority services will expedite the processing of Family Visa applications submitted by overseas applicants.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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