

Note No: A308/03

Protocol Division of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations and has the honour to inform them that the Home Office has recently announced the introduction of charges for applications for leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 allows the Home Office to charge for leave to remain in the United Kingdom. The Home Secretary has decided that charges sufficient for cost recovery (£155 for postal applications and £250 for a premium service available to personal callers at the Home Office) will be introduced from 1 August 2003. The charges will apply to applications for an extension of stay in the United Kingdom, for settlement, and for permanent residency stamps to be transferred to a new passport. Full details of the new charges and application forms are available on the Home Office website www.IND.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Provided they are not permanent residents of the United Kingdom, diplomatic agents, administrative and technical staff, and service staff of diplomatic missions, and officials of international organisations together with representatives of member States, and their dependants, will be exempt from these charges. However, the charges will, for example, apply to extensions of stay for the private domestic staff of diplomats and others entitled to privileges and immunities. Please continue to send all applications to Protocol Division.

Any application submitted to Protocol Division on or after 1 August 2003 for an extension of stay or change of immigration conditions, where completion of Home Office form FLR(O) is required, should therefore be accompanied by a cheque for

£155 made payable to "Home Office Leave to remain". If an applicant is exempt from a charge and they pay by mistake they will receive a refund/ex gratia payment. If they are not exempt and pay but are refused they will not be given a refund.

Protocol Division avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations the assurance of its highest consideration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1

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