

Taylor Walton launches fixed fee business immigration service

Taylor Walton LLP, a leading law firm covering the South East region, has launched a new fixed fee business immigration service for employers wanting to employ skilled foreign workers.

On 27 November 2008, the Government introduced the second stage of the new Points Based System (PBS) for immigration control which replaces the current Work Permit Scheme.

The introduction of Tier 5 and, in particular, Tier 2 of the Points Based System will have a significant effect on any business that has in the past, or is looking in the future, to employ skilled foreign workers from outside Europe.

Under the new regime, every business that wants to employ a skilled foreign worker will need to apply for a sponsored licence from the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) and will not be able to employ any skilled foreign worker unless they are registered as a sponsor.

To assist businesses with this change, Taylor Walton has created a fixed fee package of £750 + VAT for registration. In addition, there is an application fee payable to UKBA. The fee varies from £300 – £1,000 depending on the type of application required and the classification of the Company.

Taylor Walton will assist with the completion of the entire registration process, produce a detailed breakdown of the new system once it has been completed and inform the client of its continuing duties under the registration.

The Tier 2 procedure for employment of "skilled workers" has four categories:

- Skilled workers (general)
- Intercompany transfers
- Sports people
- Ministers of religion

Of these categories, the first two are seen as being the most relevant to many businesses up and down the United Kingdom.

As a sponsor, businesses will be able to issue certificates of sponsorship to any migrant worker under Tier 2. However, this ability comes with a significant responsibility for ensuring that the migrant workers comply with their immigration conditions. This will involve businesses keeping full records on each migrant and will require the employer, rather than the UKBA to monitor the migrant and report any breaches of immigration conditions.

Failure to comply with the detailed requirements will have serious consequences for the business in question. This will include the downgrading or withdrawal of the sponsorship licence, a potential maximum fine of £10,000 and 2 years imprisonment.

For further information on the registration package please contact Clive Borthwick (Partner) or Chris Brazier (Solicitor) who will be pleased to discuss the latest changes and how they will apply to your organisation. They can be contacted on 01582 731161.

ENDS

Taylor Walton LLP is a 22 partner firm in three offices strategically located close to but not in London.

Taylor Walton is highly rated by leading independent legal directory *The Legal 500* which ranks a number of its teams in the top division of South East firms, and quotes clients as describing the firm as “commercial, pragmatic and quick”.

More information:

Clive Borthwick

Partner

Tel. 01582 731161

Email. clive.borthwick@taylorwalton.co.uk

Ian Riches

Business Development Manager

Tel. 01582 731161

Email. ian.riches@taylorwalton.co.uk