

## REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### DECREASE IN REGISTRATION APPLICATION FEES TO BE PAID TO THE OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICES COMMISSIONER BY IMMIGRATION ADVISERS

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#### THE IMMIGRATION SERVICES COMMISSIONER (REGISTRATION FEE) ORDER 2002

##### **Purpose**

1. The Immigration Services Commissioner (Registration Fee) Order 2002 ("the 2002 Order") revokes and replaces the Immigration Services Commissioner (Registration Fee) Order 2000 ("the 2000 Order") which specified the fees to be paid to the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) by those making an application for initial registration or continued registration with the OISC, as required under Part V of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The 2002 Order establishes a new, lower fee structure for those applying to register with the OISC, which comes into effect on 1 September 2002.

##### **Benefits**

2. The new fee structure put in place by the 2002 Order replaces the existing flat fees for both initial and continued registration with revised fees which differentiate between initial registration with the Commissioner and continued registration on an annual basis thereafter. The 2000 Order set flat registration fees of £1,800 for one relevant adviser, £2,675 for two to four relevant advisers, £3,745 for five to nine relevant advisers, £4,275 for ten to nineteen relevant advisers and £6,000 for twenty or more relevant advisers. Under the 2002 Order fees accompanying initial registration applications for one to four relevant advisers will be £1,700, for five to nine relevant advisers £1,900 and for ten or more relevant advisers £2,300. Additionally, continued registration application fees for one to four relevant advisers will be £1,250, for five to nine relevant advisers it will be £1,550 and for ten or more relevant advisers £2,050.
3. Therefore, from 1 September 2002, when an immigration adviser applies to continue their registration with the OISC they will pay less than the current flat registration fee. Those making initial registration applications will also pay less.
4. The OISC estimate that, under the 2002 Order, in the course of a year, immigration advisers will collectively pay about £175,000 less for registration applications (whether initial or continued) than they would have done under the 2000 Order.

##### **Business sectors affected**

6. This only affects those immigration advisers and immigration service providers who are in business for profit and who do not hold a practising certificate issued by one of the designated professional bodies listed in section 86 of the 1999 Act. (As of 1 August 2002, 134 advisers were registered with the OISC).

**Consultation and review**

- 7. The Immigration Services Commissioner proposed the new fee scale which he felt more accurately reflected the costs of administering the scheme. The new fee scale has been agreed with HM Treasury following consultation.
- 8. The Immigration Services Commissioner will keep the fee scale under review.

**Declaration:**

**I have read the Regulatory Impact Assessment and am satisfied that the balance between cost and benefit is the right one in the circumstances**

**Signed by the responsible Minister.....**

**Date.....**

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