

CLAS CIRCULAR 2020/23 (16 July 2020)

Disclaimer

CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

CHARITIES & CHARITY LAW	2
Fundraising Regulator: Safely returning to fundraising.....	2
EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING	3
UK points-based immigration system.....	3
EUROPE.....	5
New campaign to prepare UK for end of the transition period	5
SCOTLAND.....	6
Safe re-opening of places of worship	6
WALES.....	7
Further coronavirus restrictions relaxed in Wales	7

CHARITIES & CHARITY LAW

Fundraising Regulator: Safely returning to fundraising

For information

The Fundraising Regulator has published a blog post that sets out its new guidance on the [key principles for fundraising](#) which can be applied to all methods of fundraising, as well as specific [guidance for public fundraising](#) (including street, door-to-door and private site fundraising).

[Source: Fundraising Regulator, 7 July]

EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING

UK points-based immigration system

For information **and possibly for action**

The Home Office has published a [policy paper](#) and [guidance](#) on the points-based immigration system that will be introduced from 1 January 2021.

In summary, visa applicants must have a valid job offer from a licensed sponsor and must be able to speak English to an 'acceptable standard' (level B1, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Additionally, the job that they are applying for must be at or above the minimum skill level of RQF3 level (A level) or equivalent. Meeting the mandatory criteria above will earn the applicant 50 points, after which they must obtain a further 20 'tradeable' points through a combination of points for their salary, a job in a shortage occupation or a relevant PhD.

The most pertinent points for CLAS members, are as follows:

- 'There are two dedicated routes for religious institutions who wish to recruit from overseas. Ministers of Religion is a longer-term visa for those playing a leading role as faith leaders, leading congregations and preaching the essentials of the creed. Religious Worker is a temporary, short-term visa, providing for those undertaking nonpastoral roles, supporting the activities of religious institutions.'
- Who may apply: 'Individuals of all nationalities who wish to play leading roles as either faith leaders (longer-term), or religious workers (temporary) filling short-term non-pastoral placements in a religious institution.'

Ministers of Religion conditions and requirements:

Requirements		Conditions and restrictions	
English language	Yes	Capped	No
Application fee	Yes	Switching – routes (in country)	Yes
Immigration Skills Charge	No	Settlement	Yes
Immigration Health Surcharge	Yes	Dependants	Yes
Biometrics	Yes	Access to public funds	No
Maintenance	Yes	Supplementary work	Yes

Additional
Applicants can undertake supplementary work at the same level as primary employment, undertake a job on the Shortage Occupation List, or study up to 15 hours per week.
A Minister of Religion applicant can do supplementary work, voluntary work, study (as long as it doesn't interfere with the sponsored job) and travel abroad.
Applicants must be receiving at least National Minimum Wage exemptions apply to some schemes, e.g. Erasmus).

Religious Workers (shorter-term) conditions and requirements:

Requirements		Conditions and restrictions	
English language	No	Capped	No
Application fee	Yes	Switching – routes (in country)	Yes
Immigration Skills Charge	No	Settlement	No
Immigration Health Surcharge	Yes	Dependants	Yes
Biometrics	Yes	Access to public funds	No
Maintenance	Yes	Supplementary work	Yes
Additional			
Applicants can undertake supplementary work at the same level as primary employment, undertake a job on the Shortage Occupation List, or study up to 15 hours per week.			
A worker for a religious institution must have an offer from the sponsor. Any applicant as a Religious Worker must not have held entry clearance or leave to remain in the 12 months immediately prior to the application as a Religious Worker or Charity Worker.			
Applicants must be receiving at least National Minimum Wage (exemptions apply to some schemes, e.g. Erasmus).			

[Source: Home Office, 13 July]

EUROPE

New campaign to prepare UK for end of the transition period

For information **and possibly for action**

The Government has [launched](#) a new campaign to help businesses and individuals prepare for the end of the transition period. The campaign will detail the actions that businesses and individuals need to take to prepare for the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020.

[Source: Cabinet Office, 13 July]

SCOTLAND

Safe re-opening of places of worship

For information

The Scottish Government has [announced](#) that places of worship will be able to re-open for congregational worship and prayer and religious life event ceremonies from 15 July. Key measures include:

- Restrictions on capacity so that a safe distance of at least 2 metres can be maintained between individuals from different household groups. No place of worship should admit more than 50 people at any one time, regardless of its size or usual capacity, with a limit of 20 on weddings and funerals
- The retention of worshippers' contact details to share for Test and Protect, if required
- No communal prayer books, prayer mats or other shared items
- Faith leaders and those responsible for places of worship must take all reasonable measures to adapt faith-specific rites and rituals to ensure the safety of those present
- Singing, chanting and the playing of wind instruments should be avoided pending further scientific and medical advice on the risks of transmission from such activities.

[Source: Scottish Government, 14 July]

WALES

Further coronavirus restrictions relaxed in Wales

For information

The Welsh Government has [announced](#) that most indoor tourist attractions would reopen from **Monday 13 July, including places of worship**. The following will be able to open, subject to following the guidance about coronavirus-safe ways to operate:

- Places of worship: faith leaders can begin to gradually resume services when they are ready to do so safely.
- Indoor visitor attractions, although a small number of underground visitor attractions will remain closed.

The Welsh Government is also making changes to the Regulations to allow larger gatherings of up to 30 people outdoors for sports and other leisure activities and classes where they are organised and supervised by a responsible person. This will allow sports and leisure activities to take place outdoors, **and collective outdoor worship**.

From **20 July**, playgrounds, community centres and outdoor gyms will be able to reopen gradually as and when safety checks and mitigations are put in place.

The First Minister also called on the following to prepare for reopening from **27 July**:

- Indoor cinemas, museums, galleries and archive services
- Tourist accommodation with shared facilities, such as camping sites

From **27 July**, it is also intended fully to reope the housing market.

The Welsh Government's detailed guidance for places of worship is expected tomorrow, **15 July**, and we shall send out an e-mail alert. The Revd Gethin Rhys has circulated a helpful analysis to member Churches of Cytûn, which is available [here](#).

[Source: Welsh Government, 10 July]