



By email only

Ed Mackie
Deputy Director
UK Visas & Immigration
Home Office

13 June 2024

Dear Mr Mackie,

Re: Concerns regarding a digital only immigration system

We are aware that you have received a letter dated 11 June 2024 from ILPA concerning *The UK's Transition to eVisas: A Digital-only Immigration System: Not Fit for Purpose* ("the ILPA letter"). For ease of reference, below is a link to the ILPA letter:

<https://ilpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ILPA-Open-Letter-on-The-UKs-Transition-to-eVisas-11.06.2024.pdf>

That letter is supported by a large number of individuals and organisations, many of whom with considerable day-to-day experience working with and for people who are subject to immigration control and who need, in various contexts, to produce or be able to produce evidence of their immigration status.

We write to make clear that – although we are not an organisation providing legal representation or other direct services to the people affected by ending the use of physical documentation as proof of immigration status – we broadly share the concerns raised in the ILPA letter.

Indeed, in June 2021, we wrote to the then Minister, Kevin Foster MP, concerning the plan to end the use of physical documentation ("the Amnesty letter"). Our letter, and the response to it, are available here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/amnesty-uk-letter-minister-plan-replace-physical-documentation-digital-only-status>

The ILPA letter generally confirms the concerns we then expressed, suggests that various of these have already become manifest and – given the approaching deadline to complete the switch from physical documentation to digital only – emphasises the urgency of this matter.

Accordingly, we ask that you please take note that we are among the many with grave concerns as to the safety and impact of the decision to end the use of physical documentation. In addition to the matters set out in the ILPA letter, we would invite the Home Office to revisit the concerns expressed in the Amnesty



letter of June 2021. We strongly encourage the department to reconsider and indeed reverse this policy decision.

I have copied this to ILPA for their information.

Sincerely,

Steve Valdez-Symonds
Programme Director – Refugee and Migrant Rights
Amnesty International UK

cc: Immigration Law Practitioners' Association