



**Immigration Policy
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Dear Practitioner,

Invitation to Tender - New Asylum Model Early Legal Advice Pilot in Solihull

The Commission is inviting tenders from organisations who are able to take part in a pilot scheme for providing legal advice to New Asylum Model (NAM) clients who are segmented into the West Midlands region for their case to be determined through the Home Office NAM casework team in Solihull.

The objective of the scheme is to pilot provision of front loading legal advice and assistance.

It is anticipated that the pilot scheme will begin on 23 October 2006 and will last for a period of six months. Organisations will be expected to work closely with the Commission in order to develop the service and assist us with evaluating it during the pilot.

The letter inviting tenders, Information For Applicants, Application Form and Draft Specification and Schedule can be found on our website at:

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/tendering/index.asp>

Further reference should be made to:

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/immigration/immigration.asp>

The tender closing date is **12 noon on Friday 8 September 2006**. If after reading the documents you wish to apply there will be an opportunity to submit questions to the Commission prior to the closing date. Questions on the tender process should be received by the 12 noon on Friday 25 August 2006, answers to any questions asked will be posted on our website on Tuesday 29 August 2006. We are not able to enter into any individual correspondence with applicants during the bid round.

You will find the following documents on our website:

1. Information for Applicants;
2. Application Form;

3. Draft Schedule;
4. Draft Fast Track Specification
5. Payment annex; and
6. Improving Asylum Decisions through Early and Interactive Advice and Representation

You should carefully read the Information for Applicants, Schedule and Specification. Particularly, you should note that the Specification requires that advisers must be accredited to Level 2 - Senior Caseworker level to attend the Interactive Home Office Interview.

We also require that organisations that wish to take part in the pilot must be within a 30-mile radius of the interview venue. This is to ensure that travel costs and time incurred is kept at a reasonable level for the Commission. In addition as the client will have been newly dispersed to the region and be expected to travel to your office for potentially several appointments it would not be reasonable nor practicable to expect the client to travel beyond this distance.

The Schedule will initially apply until the end of March 2007.

Yours sincerely

Davinder Sidhu
Legal Advisor