

QAZI LEGAL

UPDATE

When the answer is taking too long

Practical guidance on delayed Home Office applications—plus important updates for families, tenants, businesses and private clients.

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Home Office delays: what can you do?

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New: Everyday Legal Support Plan

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ISSUE 01

Clear advice.

Personal service.

Strong representation.

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NEW: EVERYDAY LEGAL SUPPORT PLAN

Everyday legal questions? Ask Qazi

Affordable access to clear initial guidance when an everyday legal question arises.

£50 PER MONTH, INCLUDING VAT

Members may submit up to three brief legal enquiries each month. Each enquiry is limited to one clearly stated question, up to 10 minutes' consideration and a short telephone or email response, normally within three working days. Where necessary, one short document of no more than two pages may be reviewed. Unused enquiries do not roll over.

What members receive

- Up to three brief legal enquiries each month.
- Clear initial guidance by telephone or email.
- Up to 10 minutes' professional consideration for each enquiry.
- Review of one short document of no more than two pages, where necessary.
- A response normally within three working days.

What the plan does not include

The plan does not include applications, drafting, substantial document review, correspondence, representation, urgent or deadline-sensitive work, court proceedings, disbursements or legal-aid work. Additional work will be quoted separately.

How it works

1. Join the plan and complete the firm's onboarding and identity requirements.
2. Submit one clearly stated everyday legal question at a time.
3. Receive initial guidance and, where further work is needed, a separate quotation.

IMPORTANT

Every enquiry remains subject to conflict, identity, eligibility and matter-acceptance checks. The plan provides initial guidance only and does not guarantee that the firm can accept every enquiry or achieve a particular outcome. Full subscription terms and conditions apply.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Telephone 020 3161 5450 or email advice@qazisolicitors.com and ask about the Qazi Everyday Legal Support Plan.

WELCOME

Legal information should help you make better decisions

Welcome to the first edition of Qazi Legal Update—our practical briefing for individuals, families, businesses, landlords and professional contacts.

Legal problems rarely arrive at a convenient time. An immigration decision may be delayed when a family needs certainty. A business may be asked to sign a lease before it fully understands the repairing obligations. A tenant may know that a property is unsafe but not know what evidence to retain. A family may need to progress a divorce even though the other spouse cannot be located.

Our aim is to explain these issues clearly. Each edition will focus on practical questions, evidence and next steps. It will not replace advice on an individual case, but it should help readers recognise when action may be needed and what information a solicitor is likely to require.

Our approach

Clear advice, realistic expectations, careful preparation and regular communication. We aim to make the law understandable without oversimplifying the issues that matter.

In this first edition

- Our lead feature considers delayed Home Office applications and the steps that may be available.
- A timely eVisa update explains the treatment of Home Office travel documents.
- Our family, housing and business sections provide practical checklists.
- Our private-client note explains why a will should be reviewed after important life changes.

About the firm

Qazi and Co Solicitors Limited is an SRA-regulated London firm advising across immigration, landlord and tenant, family, litigation and other legal services. The firm is authorised for all legal services and is recorded by the SRA under number 835838.

Official source: [SRA Solicitors Register – Qazi and Co Solicitors Limited](#)

Still waiting for the Home Office?

Delay does not always mean that something has gone wrong—but an unexplained or excessive delay should be assessed rather than simply ignored.

Home Office processing periods differ by application type, place of application and whether identity and supporting evidence have been provided. Some routes have published service standards; others do not. GOV.UK currently states, for example, that there is no service standard for certain in-country applications based on private life or made as a partner, spouse or parent where the minimum-income and English-language requirements do not apply.

The absence of a published service standard does not mean that an application may be left indefinitely without scrutiny. The correct response depends on the route, the length of delay, any explanation already given and the effect on the applicant and family.

First: establish the procedural position

- Confirm the application date and the date identity was verified or biometrics were enrolled.
- Check that all requested evidence was supplied and that no email or online-account message has been missed.
- Identify the published processing information for the particular route.
- Record every contact with UKVI, including dates, reference numbers and replies.
- Check whether section 3C leave or another form of continuing permission may apply; do not assume this without advice.

When a chase may be appropriate

A focused status request may be justified where the usual published period has passed, the delay is materially longer than comparable cases, or the applicant faces serious consequences. The request should identify the application clearly, state the chronology and ask whether any further evidence or action is required.

Evidence matters

A request for prioritisation should not merely describe a case as “urgent”. It should explain the consequences of delay and provide objective evidence—such as medical records, proof of bereavement or serious family circumstances, safeguarding material, employment consequences or evidence affecting a child’s welfare.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Visa processing times for applications inside the UK](#)

A proportionate escalation route

Depending on the facts, possible steps may include:

Step	Purpose
1. Status enquiry	Confirm the position, whether enquiries are outstanding and whether further information is required.
2. Evidence-led priority request	Explain exceptional urgency and provide reliable supporting documents.
3. Formal complaint	Address service failure or a failure to engage with repeated reasonable enquiries.
4. MP assistance	Ask the constituency MP to make enquiries where the delay has serious consequences.
5. Pre-action assessment	Consider whether a formal pre-action letter and potential judicial review are proportionate and legally justified.

Judicial review is not an automatic remedy for every delay. The court considers the legal context, the reason for delay, the steps already taken, the consequences and whether proceedings are premature. Costs risk and alternative remedies must also be considered.

Question of the month

Can the Home Office be forced to expedite an application?

There is no general right to have every application expedited merely because the applicant asks. A well-supported request can nevertheless invite prioritisation where the circumstances are genuinely compelling. The prospects depend heavily on the evidence, the legal route and the practical harm caused by continued delay.

Administrative review delays

GOV.UK currently warns that an in-country administrative review can take 12 months or more. It states that, where no result is received within six months, the Home Office will provide an update and that the applicant's rights are not affected by the processing delay. Individual legal consequences should still be checked carefully.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Administrative review from within the UK](#)

CURRENT IMMIGRATION UPDATE

Home Office travel documents and eVisas

A useful digital-status change came into effect in March 2026.

Home Office guidance updated on 1 July 2026 states that, from 11 March 2026, Home Office travel documents are automatically linked to a person's UKVI account. A newly issued travel document should appear in the account within two working days after the decision is received.

The guidance also says that the physical Home Office travel document should continue to be carried when travelling overseas. Travellers should check their UKVI account details before travel and allow time to correct any discrepancy.

Before travelling

- Check that your personal details and immigration status appear correctly in your UKVI account.
- Check that the travel document number is visible and accurate.
- Continue to carry the physical Home Office travel document.
- Review the entry requirements of the destination and any transit country.
- Obtain advice before travel if an application, appeal or protection issue remains outstanding.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Updates on the move to eVisas](#)

FAMILY LAW ---

Divorce where a spouse cannot be located

Not knowing the respondent's current address does not necessarily prevent a divorce. The applicant must, however, deal properly with service of the proceedings. Depending on the evidence, the court may consider alternative service, deemed service or dispensing with service.

HMCTS guidance states that a person seeking to dispense with service must demonstrate that all reasonable attempts and enquiries have been made to locate the respondent and serve the papers. Evidence might include enquiries with relatives, known employers, available records or other proportionate tracing steps. The appropriate application depends on the circumstances.

Safety comes first

Where there has been domestic abuse, fear or safeguarding concern, legal advice should be obtained before attempting direct contact or revealing an address. The court can consider the circumstances; a vulnerable applicant should not take unsafe steps simply to create evidence of attempted service.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Alternative, deemed and dispensed service](#)

Practical help to rebuild a working life

Finding work is not only about vacancies. CV support, English, recognition of existing skills, digital training and professional networks can all make a decisive difference.

The organisations below provide different forms of assistance. Some services are national or online; others operate only in particular areas or accept people with a specified immigration status. Programmes, funding and eligibility can change, so readers should check directly before relying on availability.

Organisation or service	What it offers
Refugee Council – Refugees Into Jobs	Employment advice and programmes designed to help refugees prepare for and find work. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-help/refugees-into-jobs/
Breaking Barriers	Employment advice, education and experience intended to help refugees enter meaningful work. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/
Refugee Action – Pathways to Work	Online pre-employment support for eligible refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants located in England. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/pathways-to-work-self-referral-form/
International Rescue Committee UK	Job-readiness support covering CVs, cover letters, interviews and understanding employment in the UK. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.rescue.org/uk/employment-support-refugees-uk
CodeYourFuture	Free technical and employability training for people facing barriers, including refugees and people seeking asylum. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://codeyourfuture.io/become-a-student/

Organisation or service	What it offers
TERN – The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network	Support for refugees who want to develop, launch or grow a business in the UK. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://wearetern.org/
London ESOL classes	The Mayor of London's directory of formal and informal English classes across London. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/migrants-and-refugees/english-esol-classes-london
GOV.UK – Find a Job	Government service for searching and applying for jobs in England, Scotland and Wales. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job

Before accepting or starting work

Check permission to work

Registering with a charity, training programme or employment adviser does not itself give permission to work. A person should check the conditions of their immigration status before undertaking paid employment or self-employment. GOV.UK states that a non-British or non-Irish citizen may usually prove a right to work using a share code or eligible immigration documents. An employer may be able to use the Employer Checking Service where appropriate.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Prove your right to work](#)

REFUGEE WORK, SKILLS & SUPPORT — CONTINUED

General and urgent support

Employment may be only one part of the support a newly recognised refugee or person seeking asylum requires.

Support service	How it may help
British Red Cross – refugee support	Practical and emotional support, emergency assistance, casework and signposting. Availability varies by local service. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee

Support service	How it may help
Migrant Help – asylum services	Independent guidance on the asylum process and asylum support. Its free asylum helpline is stated as operating 24 hours a day: 0808 8010 503. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.migranthelpuk.org/pages/category/asylum
Refugee Council – help for refugees	Information about Refugee Council services, including integration and specialist support programmes. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-help/
Refugee Council – health professionals	The Building Bridges programme supports refugee doctors and other health professionals with requalification and employment pathways. CLICK TO VISIT WEBSITE: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-help/building-bridges-programme-for-refugee-health-professionals/

Preparing for an employment appointment

- Take proof of immigration status and permission to work, where applicable.
- Bring a current CV—or a list of previous jobs, qualifications and skills if no CV is available.
- Gather certificates, professional registrations and translations where possible.
- Prepare a short explanation of the type of work sought, availability and any training needs.
- Never pay an unknown person for a guaranteed job, sponsorship certificate or employment offer without checking authenticity.

Emergency or safeguarding issue

Call 999 where there is immediate danger. A person facing homelessness, exploitation, trafficking, destitution or an urgent safeguarding problem should seek appropriate specialist help promptly. The organisations listed are independent services; inclusion does not mean that Qazi & Co controls, endorses or guarantees their services.

BUSINESS, PROPERTY & HOUSING

Five checks before signing a commercial lease

The rent is only one part of the financial and operational commitment.

1	Repair and condition	Check whether the lease requires the tenant to put the premises into repair—even where defects existed before the lease. Consider a survey and an agreed schedule of condition.
2	Total occupancy cost	Identify rent, VAT, business rates, service charge, insurance contribution, utilities, fitting-out costs and possible dilapidations.
3	Use and alterations	Confirm that the permitted use suits the business and whether signage, fit-out works, assignment or subletting require consent.
4	Break and renewal rights	Understand the term, rent-review mechanism, break conditions and whether statutory renewal protection is excluded.
5	Guarantees and exit exposure	Check any rent deposit, personal guarantee, authorised guarantee agreement and liability on assignment or early exit.

GOV.UK confirms that the lease should identify responsibility for repair and maintenance and warns that dilapidations liabilities may arise on leaving. The RICS Code for Leasing Business Premises provides a useful heads-of-terms and occupancy-cost framework, but it does not replace legal advice on the particular lease.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Business tenant responsibilities](#)

Official source: [RICS – Code for Leasing Business Premises](#)

HOUSING

Repair problems: build an evidence file

A tenant reporting disrepair should keep a clear record from the beginning. Useful material may include dated photographs and videos, copies of emails or messages, a diary of when the problem occurred, evidence of damaged possessions, medical evidence where health is affected and records of access offered for inspection or repair.

- Notify the landlord or managing agent clearly and retain proof.
- Describe the location, seriousness and effect of the problem.
- Record every visit, missed appointment and attempted repair.
- Seek urgent help where there is immediate danger, homelessness risk or serious health impact.

- Do not withhold rent without obtaining specific legal advice.

PRIVATE CLIENT

When did you last review your will?

A will should reflect your present family, assets and wishes—not the circumstances that existed many years ago.

A will determines what should happen to money, property and possessions after death. It can identify executors, make gifts, address guardianship wishes and support appropriate estate planning. Without a valid will, intestacy rules determine who inherits.

Consider a review after:

- Marriage, civil partnership, divorce or separation.
- The birth or adoption of a child or grandchild.
- Buying or selling property, or a substantial change in assets.
- The death or incapacity of an executor or beneficiary.
- A change in family relationships or care responsibilities.
- A move abroad or acquisition of assets in another jurisdiction.

GOV.UK explains that a will must be formally witnessed and signed to be legally valid. An update requires either an official alteration known as a codicil or a new will. Whether a codicil is suitable depends on the scale and nature of the proposed change.

Official source: [GOV.UK – Making a will](#)

MEET THE TEAM

Anwarullah Qazi — Solicitor

Anwar Qazi worked as a solicitor at several law firms before establishing Qazi and Co Solicitors Limited. During his career, he has developed extensive experience in housing, immigration, family law, personal injury, litigation and company law. He has handled a wide range of matters and represented clients in both the County Court and the High Court. Clients benefit from his dedicated, focused, knowledgeable and well-organised approach. He communicates effectively in Dari, Pashto, Hindi and Urdu, enabling clients who prefer those languages to discuss their matters with him directly.

Alvyn Kee — Solicitor

Alvyn Kee qualified as a solicitor in 2007 and has extensive experience advising on complex corporate and personal immigration matters. His work includes naturalisation and registration applications, refusals and appeals, and judicial review. He has broad experience across all aspects of immigration law and is a leading specialist in his field.

Alvyn is known for the clarity of his advice, his expertise and his approachable manner. He takes a direct, no-nonsense approach and strives to act in his clients' best interests without compromise, working closely with them to achieve their objectives.

CONTACT

QAZI LEGAL

How Qazi & Co can help

If you would like advice about any subject covered in this issue, contact the firm to arrange an appointment. Before advice is provided, the firm will need to complete the usual conflict, identity and matter-opening checks.

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Email	advice@qazisolicitors.com
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Hours	Monday to Friday, 9.00am–5.30pm

General information only

This newsletter provides general information as at 20 July 2026. It is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for advice on individual circumstances. Law, policy, fees and official guidance can change. No solicitor–client relationship is created by receiving or reading this publication.

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