

QAZI AND CO SOLICITORS LIMITED

Qazi Legal Update

Autumn 2026

Important changes for people navigating the immigration system, private renters, families, businesses and injured claimants.

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Immigration Rules	Changes affecting children, families and people on immigration bail
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Personal injury	The three-year time limit and evidence to preserve
Family law	Building workable child arrangements after separation
Commercial leases	Exercising a break clause without avoidable mistakes
Everyday Legal Support	Up to three brief enquiries for £50 per month including VAT

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WELCOME

Practical guidance for a changing legal landscape

This issue focuses on changes already affecting day-to-day decisions, together with practical steps readers can take before a problem becomes urgent.

Immigration and housing law have both changed significantly during 2026. Digital proof of status is becoming more important, while private landlords and tenants in England are working within a new tenancy regime. At the same time, familiar legal problems still depend on early action: preserving evidence after an injury, recording child arrangements clearly and checking the exact conditions of a commercial lease break clause.

Our purpose is not to replace advice on an individual matter. It is to help readers identify the questions that matter, organise relevant documents and understand when specific advice may be needed.

Our approach

Clear advice, realistic expectations, careful preparation and regular communication. We explain the law in accessible language without hiding the facts, evidence or risks that can affect the outcome.

What to do this autumn

- Check the expiry date and accuracy of passports, eVisas and UKVI account details.
- If settlement may be approaching, calculate absences and identify missing evidence now.
- Landlords should review tenancy documents and prescribed procedures introduced from 1 May 2026.
- Tenants should keep written records of rent, notices, repair reports and communication.
- Do not leave an injury claim, court deadline or lease break notice until the last moment.

About the firm

Qazi and Co Solicitors Limited is an SRA-regulated London firm advising across immigration, housing, family, personal injury, civil litigation, landlord and tenant, commercial leases and driving offences. The firm is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under number 835838.

Dates highlighted in this issue

Date or period	Why it matters
From 30 July 2026	Different parts of Immigration Rules HC 259 began taking effect.
From 1 May 2026	The first phase of the new private-renting regime applies in England.
Five continuous years	The core residence period for settlement on the BN(O) route.
Usually three years	The normal court time limit for many personal-injury claims.

The July 2026 Immigration Rules changes

Statement of Changes HC 259 introduced amendments across family, child, Graduate, protection and suitability provisions, with different changes taking effect from 30 July 2026.

Change	Practical significance
UK-born children on the Graduate route	A child born in the UK during a parent's current Graduate permission can apply as a dependant and receive permission in line with that parent.
Children joining relatives	The child-relative rules have been revised and aligned more closely across relevant routes. Evidence about care arrangements and the child's circumstances remains central.
Partners of temporary-protection sponsors	A partner's period of permission can be aligned with the protection sponsor, reducing the risk that the partner's leave extends beyond the sponsor's.
Immigration bail and suitability	Being on immigration bail can affect whether an in-country application meets route-specific suitability requirements. Exceptions may apply, but should not be assumed.
Other route changes	The statement also addresses Appendix EU, armed-forces routes, Scale-up neonatal leave, stateless settlement applications and criminality provisions.

Before relying on a new rule

1. Identify the exact route and the date the application will be submitted.
2. Check the commencement and transitional provisions for that change.
3. Confirm whether the applicant is in the UK, outside the UK or on immigration bail.
4. Prepare evidence addressing every requirement rather than relying on the headline change.

Useful evidence to gather

- Current and previous passports, eVisa records and decision letters.
- Birth and relationship documents for any child or dependant application.
- A complete immigration chronology, including periods of bail or overstaying.
- Evidence of care arrangements, family circumstances and any exceptional factors.

Official source: [Home Office explanatory memorandum to HC 259](#)

NATIONALITY AND STATUS

Right of abode and the new digital certificate

Right of abode allows a person to live and work in the UK without immigration restrictions, but the evidence used to prove that right matters.

A certificate of entitlement can be used to prove right of abode when travelling, renting or starting work. Current GOV.UK guidance states that a person may apply if they are a British citizen using a foreign passport, or a Commonwealth citizen who has right of abode. A person cannot hold a certificate of entitlement at the same time as a valid British passport.

What has changed

Successful applicants now receive a digital certificate of entitlement accessed through a UKVI account. The digital certificate does not expire when the passport expires, but the holder must update the UKVI account when passport or personal details change. Existing valid vignette certificates can continue until the passport expires and may be changed to a digital certificate without a further application fee.

Key points before applying

- Confirm the legal basis of the claimed right of abode; nationality history can be complex.
- Gather full birth, marriage, nationality and passport evidence across the relevant generations.
- Check whether a valid British passport or existing certificate prevents or changes the application.
- The published application fee is £589 as at 9 September 2026.
- GOV.UK states that decisions are usually made within eight weeks for an in-country online application and within three weeks after an overseas biometric appointment.

If an application is refused

A reconsideration may be requested where UKVI is said not to have applied the law or policy correctly. The application fee is not refunded merely because eligibility or supporting evidence was insufficient, so the legal basis and evidence should be reviewed before submission.

A well-organised right-of-abode file

- A family tree identifying the person through whom the claim arises.
- Full certificates showing births, marriages, adoptions or name changes.
- British, Commonwealth and foreign passports relevant to the claim.
- Evidence of nationality, citizenship, registration or naturalisation at the relevant dates.

Official source: [GOV.UK right of abode guidance](#)

HONG KONG BN(O) ROUTE

Preparing for BN(O) settlement

The first larger cohort of BN(O) visa holders is now approaching settlement. Continuous residence and documentary preparation should be checked early.

GOV.UK states that a person can apply for settlement after spending five continuous years in the UK on qualifying permission. In most cases, the applicant must not have spent more than 180 days outside the UK in any rolling 12-month period. Time on certain other routes may sometimes count, but the exact immigration history must be checked.

Build the settlement file

- List every absence from the UK with departure and return dates.
- Keep current and expired passports, travel records and evidence explaining unusual absences.
- Check that the applicant and relevant family members still meet the route requirements.
- Prepare evidence of English language and Life in the UK requirements where applicable.
- Make sure the UKVI account, passport details and contact information are accurate.
- If serious illness or disability affects biometrics or online access, raise the issue early and retain medical evidence.

Do not assume the visa dates answer everything

The date permission was granted, the date of arrival, earlier qualifying leave and absences may all affect the calculation. A person who arrived later than the start date of their visa should not assume that the printed visa period automatically establishes five years of residence.

After settlement

A successful applicant receives an eVisa. British citizenship is a separate application with its own eligibility, residence and good-character requirements.

Common issues to identify early

- The visa was granted before the applicant actually arrived in the UK.
- Long absences were caused by illness, caring responsibilities or travel disruption.
- Different family members have different qualifying periods or immigration histories.
- Passport stamps are incomplete or do not match travel records.

Official source: [GOV.UK BN\(O\) settlement guidance](#)

Private renting changed on 1 May 2026

The first phase of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 now applies to new and existing private tenancies in England, subject to transitional provisions and exceptions.

Area	Position from 1 May 2026
Section 21	Landlords can no longer serve a new section 21 no-fault notice. Possession must rely on an available legal ground and the correct procedure.
Tenancy structure	The new regime uses assured periodic tenancies rather than fixed-term assured tenancies for most private renters.
Rent increases	Rent can generally be increased only once a year through the revised statutory procedure, with the required notice.
Rental bidding	Landlords and agents must advertise a specific rent and cannot invite, encourage or accept a higher bid.
Pets	A tenant may request a pet and the landlord must consider the request reasonably, giving valid reasons for refusal.
Written information	New tenants must receive specified written information. Existing tenants should have received the government's information sheet by 31 May 2026.

Practical steps

- Landlords should use current notices, tenancy documents and rent-increase procedures.
- Tenants should keep the tenancy agreement, information sheet, rent records and all notices.
- Both sides should take advice before assuming an older notice remains enforceable.

Landlords	Tenants
Check that forms, notices and tenancy information are current.	Keep every notice and record the date and method of receipt.
Document rent reviews, requests about pets and reasons for decisions.	Challenge unclear rent increases or refusals promptly and in writing.
Use the correct possession ground and comply with evidence requirements.	Seek early advice if threatened with eviction or homelessness.

Official source: [GOV.UK Renters' Rights Act implementation roadmap](#)

PERSONAL INJURY

An injury claim has a clock

The usual time limit for bringing a personal-injury claim is three years, but the calculation and exceptions depend on the facts. Early advice protects both evidence and options.

For many personal-injury claims in England and Wales, court proceedings must usually be started within three years of the accident or the date of knowledge of the injury. Different rules may apply to children, people lacking capacity, fatal claims, criminal injuries, accidents abroad, claims against public bodies and other special categories.

Preserve the evidence

- Seek appropriate medical attention and keep appointment, diagnosis and treatment records.
- Record the date, time, location and a clear account of what happened.
- Take photographs or video of the scene, defect, vehicle, equipment and visible injuries.
- Obtain witness names and contact details promptly.
- Keep receipts and evidence of travel, care, damaged items, lost earnings and other losses.
- Retain correspondence with employers, insurers, occupiers, police or local authorities.

Why waiting can weaken a case

CCTV may be overwritten, witnesses may become difficult to trace and the condition of a road, workplace or property may change. Notifying the responsible party or insurer is not necessarily the same as starting court proceedings. A claimant should obtain advice well before the deadline.

No guarantee of success

A claim depends on proving legal responsibility, causation and loss. Medical evidence and a realistic valuation are essential. Advertising phrases such as 'no win, no fee' do not remove the need to understand funding terms, deductions, insurance and potential costs.

Seek advice promptly where

- The accident date is approaching three years ago or the date is uncertain.
- The injured person is a child, lacks capacity or has suffered a fatal injury.
- The accident happened abroad, at work, on public land or involved an uninsured driver.
- Liability is disputed or the insurer requests a statement, medical authority or settlement acceptance.

Official source: [GOV.UK King's Bench Division time-limit guidance](#)

FAMILY AND BUSINESS

Child arrangements after separation

A workable arrangement should be centred on the child's welfare and clear enough to reduce avoidable conflict.

- Record ordinary days, collection and return times, school holidays and special occasions.
- Agree how much notice is needed when work patterns are variable.
- Set out how school, medical and emergency information will be shared.
- Consider indirect contact, travel, handovers and arrangements when a child is unwell.
- Keep communication child-focused and avoid using the child to carry messages.

Parents can often agree arrangements directly or with mediation. Where agreement is not possible, a child arrangements order can determine where a child lives, time spent with each parent and other contact. Safeguarding and domestic-abuse concerns require a different and careful approach.

Official source: [GOV.UK child-arrangements guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/child-arrangements-guidance)

Commercial lease break clauses

A break right is valuable only if the notice, deadline and contractual conditions are satisfied precisely.

5. Read the break clause, notice provisions and any conditions together.
6. Calculate the final date for service and allow time for the permitted method of delivery.
7. Check payment of basic rent and any other sums that may affect the break.
8. Plan vacant possession, removal of occupiers and return of keys.
9. Review reinstatement, repair and yielding-up obligations separately.

Do not rely on an informal email or the landlord's apparent awareness. Break conditions can be strictly applied, and an ineffective notice may leave the tenant liable for rent and other obligations for the remaining term.

Official source: [RICS Code for Leasing Business Premises](https://www.rics.org/uk/for-members/technical-articles/lease-break-clauses/)

Brief questions without a full retainer

The Qazi Everyday Legal Support Plan provides affordable access to initial guidance when a short 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 ten 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 is included

- Up to three brief legal enquiries each month.
- Initial guidance by telephone or email.
- Up to ten 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 is not included

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.

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.

Examples of suitable brief enquiries

Area	Example question
Housing	What does this notice require me to do next?
Family	Which document should record an agreed change to contact?
Employment or contract	What is the meaning of this short clause?
Immigration	Which published route appears relevant to this initial query?

To enquire, call 020 3161 5450 or email advice@qazisolicitors.com.

MEET THE TEAM

Experienced and approachable legal support

Anwarullah Qazi - Solicitor

Anwar Qazi has extensive experience in housing, immigration, family law, personal injury, litigation and company law. He has represented clients in the County Court and High Court and communicates in Dari, Pashto, Hindi and Urdu.

Alvyn Kee, MSc, MBA - Solicitor and Commissioner for Oaths

Alvyn Kee qualified as a solicitor in 2007 and advises on complex corporate and personal immigration matters, including naturalisation, registration, refusals, appeals and judicial review. He is known for clear, direct advice and an approachable manner.

Anthony Watson - Experienced Caseworker

Anthony Watson brings 30 years of legal experience and focuses on personal-injury matters. His experience supports careful case assessment, evidence preparation and realistic advice on procedure and valuation.

Contact Qazi and Co

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General information only

This newsletter provides general information as at 9 September 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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