

*
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2004 1:20 PM
To: Hughes Beverley (Submissions)
Cc: [REDACTED] (Press Office); Jeffrey Bill; Higson Paula; Sutton Ken (SCS)
Subject: FW: BRACE and backlog cases

As discussed on the telephone I have just received a copy of guidance that was issued on Weds instructing caseworkers to work ring-fenced backlogs in Croydon and Sheffield under full consideration rather than Brace. In the current circumstances I think the Minister will want to be aware that this guidance has been issued. Should it, for any reason, reach the media we face the erroneous interpretation that this represents a concession that all BRACE work was in some way inappropriate rather than that it is appropriate to take this precautionary step given the fact that Ken Sutton's investigation is ongoing and the issue is the subject of ongoing discussions.

Should this guidance become public I would suggest our line should be:

Government has ordered a full investigation of how it came about that guidance was issued to staff in the Sheffield office of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate on the handling of applications under the European Union Accession agreements without Minister's knowledge or that of senior IND management which will cover the way in which backlogs of general casework have been handled. In the meantime all cases are receiving the same level of consideration.

Does this mean BRACE has been suspended?

Yes

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2004 12:20
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: BRACE and backlog cases

As promised

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-----Original Message-----

From: Perry, Christina [mailto:Christina.Perry@ind.homeoffice.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 March 2004 14:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Higson Paula; Jeffrey Bill (POISE)
Subject: BRACE and backlog cases

You are aware that BRACE is the subject of on-going discussions with the Minister. Until we have further instruction, Paula Higson has advised that the original ring-fenced backlog cases that still reside in Croydon and Sheffield should be worked under full consideration, in the same way as caseworkers would deal with recent cases. These cases should be worked before any cases arriving more recently and not counted in our original backlog. I have asked [REDACTED] to review how these cases could be parcelled out in Croydon between caseworkers so they can be cleared without further delay. Sheffield have confirmed they are already doing this and expect to clear their share of these old backlog cases as soon as enquiries are complete. Altogether there are in the region of 300 such cases split between Sheffield and Croydon.

* NAME REDACTED BY COMMISSIONER, SECTION 40(2)

This leaves pre-August 2003 cases which have been newly received in General Group since 1 January 2004, (when I said they should be counted separately from our original backlog). These cases should also be worked under full consideration, pending further instructions. When the present investigation has reported and people have more time to look forward, work will need to be done on the consideration that needs to be given these newly arrived cases that pre-date 1 August 2003 which are surfacing at the rate of about 150 per week in General Group 2.

A proper instruction will be issued as soon as it can be drafted and agreed. For the time being please work on the basis of this note, the content of which has been discussed with Paula Higson.

Christina
Christina Parry
Director
General Group
Managed Migration
18th Floor, Lunar House
Tel: 020 8604 3083

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 March 2004 11:24
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED], Parry, Christina
Subject: RE: GG2 backlog cases

[REDACTED]
Please see enclosed. We are still using BRACE unless notified otherwise.
[REDACTED]

<< Message: RE: BRACE thoughts URGENT.pl >>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 March 2004 11:19
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED], Parry, Christina
Subject: GG2 backlog cases

[REDACTED]
We have still got a number of GG2 backlog cases that were being considered under BRACE. I have put a hold on consideration for some advice on what we do with them now. Are you still using BRACE or have we moved to full consideration? I don't want to continue with a process that is no longer in place.
[REDACTED]

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