



# Home Office

Immigration and Nationality Directorate  
IND, Oakington

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Alison Hardie  
Assistant Director, Oakington Reception Centre

Ewa Turlo  
RLC  
Oakington Reception Centre

Our Ref: AH/TH  
Your Ref:  
Date 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Dear Ewa

## NEW DETAINED FAST TRACK PROCESSES SUITABILITY LIST

I am writing to advise you, as we have regularly done over the last five years, that we have amended the Detained Fast Track (DFT) Processes Suitability List.

You may wish to note the following changes:

- that the designation of the Wave 4 NSA countries is shown.
- Zimbabwe has been removed from the list of countries likely to be suitable for the DFT
- the new criteria for age dispute cases accepted into DFT.

As well as the new suitability list I have also enclosed for your information a blank copy of the new form IS97M that will be issued to age dispute applicants accepted into DFT, you will see that this reflects the new criteria.

I do not envisage these changes having any adverse impact upon your respective operations but I am, as ever, available to discuss this or any other issue.

Yours sincerely

ALISON HARDIE  
Assistant Director

Encs

Copy: I Walsh  
N Banks  
D Dunford



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detained fast track process list  
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## Detained Fast Track (DFT) Asylum Processes Suitability List

February 2006

1. Any asylum claim, whatever the nationality or country of origin of the claimant, may be fast tracked where it appears, after screening to be one that may be decided quickly.
2. It is the responsibility of the duty officer at the National Intake Unit (NIU) to identify claims suitable for DFT processing in detention at Oakington, Harmondsworth or Yarl's Wood.
3. To assist screening staff in making referrals, this covering note includes advice as to which claims may be unsuitable for referral and are unlikely to be accepted into the DFT together with a list of countries (see Annex 2) which may well give rise to claims which may be decided quickly. However, if you are unsure as to whether a case is suitable for referral to the NIU then do not hesitate to discuss the case by telephone with the NIU.
4. The guidance in this instruction should not be taken as implying any departure from the fundamental principle that all asylum claims are looked at on a case by case basis and decided on their individual merits.

### A. CLAIMANTS UNSUITABLE FOR DFT

- Pregnant females of 24 weeks and above.
- With any medical condition which requires 24 hour nursing or medical intervention.
- With a Disability, except the most easily manageable.
- With an infectious/contagious disease.
- Presenting with acute psychosis, eg schizophrenia and requiring hospitalisation.
- Presenting with physical and/or learning disabilities requiring 24 hour nursing care.
- Where there is independent evidence that the claimant has been tortured.
- Where detention would be contrary to government policy eg where the claimant is an unaccompanied asylum seeking child.
- Age dispute cases not falling within one of the three criteria set out below.

## B. AGE DISPUTE CASES

Applicants claiming to be under 18 should be accepted into DFT processes only if one or more of the following criteria apply:

- There is credible and clear documentary evidence that they are 18 years of age or over;
- A full "Merton-compliant" age assessment by Social Services is available stating that they are 18 years of age or over. **Please note that assessments completed by social services Emergency Duty Teams are not acceptable evidence of age.**
- Their physical appearance/demeanour **very** strongly indicates that they are **significantly** 18 years of age or over and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary.

Any age dispute case not falling within at least one of the criteria above is not suitable for DFT and it should not be referred to the NIU. If there is any room for doubt as to whether a person is under 18 they should not be referred to the NIU.

Where it is decided that an age dispute case is suitable for the DFT, an age dispute referral form (see Annex 3) should be completed by the officer making the referral and faxed to the NIU after the initial contact has been made with NIU by telephone.

Forms BP 7 and IS97M have also been amended to reflect the revised policy on age dispute cases. A copy of form BP 7 is at Annex 4 and a copy of IS 97 M is at Annex 5. Please use these new forms immediately and destroy any old stocks of either form.

**LIST OF COUNTRIES LIKELY TO BE SUITABLE FOR THE DFT**

## Notes:

1. Generally speaking any asylum claim from a national of the countries below should be referred to the NIU unless the claimant falls within one of the excluded categories above listed as unsuitable for the DFT.
2. Claims in respect of countries or, where appropriate groups within countries not on the list below should also be referred to the NIU if you have reason to believe that the claim may be decided quickly.

Afghanistan	Mali
Albania (NSA)	Mauritania
Bangladesh	Mauritius
Benin	Moldova (NSA)
Bolivia (NSA)	Mongolia (NSA)
Botswana	Mozambique
Brazil (NSA)	Namibia
Bulgaria (NSA)	Niger
Burkina Faso	Nigeria (NSA – males only)
	Nigeria (females)
Cameroon	Pakistan
Canada	Romania (NSA)
Central African Rep	St Lucia
Chad	Serbia & Montenegro (NSA)
China	(including Kosovo)
Congo (Brazzaville)	Senegal
Djibouti	Somaliland (not Somalia)
Ecuador (NSA)	South Africa (NSA)
Equatorial Guinea	Sri Lanka (NSA)
Gabon	Swaziland
Gambia	Tanzania
Ghana (NSA – males only)	Togo
Ghana (females)	
Guinea-Bissau	Trinidad and Tobago
Ivory Coast	Turkey
India (NSA)	Uganda
Jamaica (NSA)	Ukraine (NSA)
Kenya	Vietnam
Macedonia (NSA)	Zambia
Malaysia	
Malawi	

*NSA :asylum claims from nationals of countries(or groups within countries) on the designated NSA list at Section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 will, if refused and certified as clearly unfounded, be subject to the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) procedure ie the claimant will have no right of appeal against the decision whilst in the United Kingdom.*

Age Dispute Referral Form for Detained Fast Track Asylum Processes

CASE REFERENCE: .....

- ❖ Is there *any* evidence to suggest that the claimant *may* be *under* 18?  
YES(detail & attach copies) / NO
  
- ❖ Is there credible, clear documentary evidence that the claimant is 18 or over 18?  
YES(detail & attach copies) / NO
  
- ❖ Is there any form of social services age assessment available stating that the claimant is over 18?  
YES(attach copy)/ NO
  
- ❖ Does the claimant's appearance *VERY* strongly indicate that he/she is over 18  
YES / NO (if YES, please say why immediately below)
  
- ❖ Has the Refugee Council Children's Panel been notified by fax?  
YES(attach copy of fax) / NO
  
- ❖ Has the claimant *ever* been accommodated by social services?  
YES(detail) / NO
  
- ❖ Has the claimant been served with a correctly completed IS97M?  
YES(attach copy) / NO
  
- ❖ Has the claimant been *seen* by the CIO / HEO?  
YES / NO
  
- ❖ Name of CIO / HEO signing IS97M?  
.....
  
- ❖ Has a BP7 been completed?  
YES(attach copy) / NO
  
- ❖ Does the *original* IS91 (detaining authority) show the claimant's date of birth as the generic age dispute dob (currently 01/01/88)?  
(if not, DEPMU will not arrange a move)  
YES (attach copy) / NO
  
- ❖ Please complete the declaration on page 2 before sending this form by fax to the NIU.

Annex 3 continued

❖ Pages 1 & 2 of Annex Completed?  
YES (attach copies of each page) / NO

Officer making referral to complete the following:

I ..... (print name) am aware that I may be asked to  
provide further information if the claimant is subsequently assessed as under 18.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

To be faxed to the NIU on 01234 424092 with all supporting documents *after*  
initial referral to NIU by telephone.

**Screening Officer's Report  
Disputed Age Contention**

PORT/LEO Reference Number	
HO Reference Number	
Surname	
First name	
Nationality	
Gender	
Claimed Date of Birth	
Date of asylum application	
Address in UK	

The claimant's age has been disputed for the following reasons: *(please ✓ all applicable boxes)*

- There is credible and clear documentary evidence that they are 18 or over.
- A full "Merton-compliant" (i.e. not that completed by Emergency Duty Teams) social services assessment is available stating that they are 18 or over
- Their physical appearance/demeanour **very strongly** indicates that they are significantly over 18 and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary.

**(N.B. If one or more of the above boxes is ticked, the applicant will be treated as an adult for the purposes of the asylum process, including detention).**

- Their physical appearance/demeanour strongly suggests they are 18 or over **(N.B. If only this box is ticked, the applicant will be treated as an adult for the purposes of the asylum process, but will not be detained pending consideration of their claim.)**

Please record the claimant's response to the decision to dispute age (use continuation sheet if necessary):

  
  

If the decision to dispute age is maintained following the claimant's response please state why:

  
  

<p>I referred the case to:</p> <p>CIO/HEO..... (print name), who has seen the claimant (if boxes 3 or 4 above are ticked) and agreed that their age should be disputed.</p> <p>Officer's signature:</p> <p>Officer's name:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Actions completed: <i>(please ✓ box)</i>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The claimant informed in ..... (insert language) that their age has been disputed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> IS97M/ACD.1162 issued to claimant</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A-CID updated (Special Conditions field)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children's Panel of Advisors notified</li> </ul>
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Home Office Form  
IS97M



**Home Office**

To:

Our Ref

Claimed Date of Birth:

Your Ref

Nationality:

Date

Dear Sir / Madam,

You have applied for asylum in the United Kingdom. In making your application you have claimed that your date of birth is \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ However, you have failed to produce any satisfactory evidence to substantiate this claim. Furthermore: *(please tick all applicable boxes)*

- There is credible and clear documentary evidence that you are 18 years of age or over,
- You have received a full "Merton compliant" age assessment by Social Services stating that you are 18 years of age or over,
- Your physical appearance/demeanour very strongly suggests that you are significantly 18 years of age or over,
- Your physical appearance/ demeanour strongly suggests that you are 18 years of age or over.

In the absence of any credible documentary evidence to the contrary, the Secretary of State does not accept that you are a minor and you will be treated as an adult in accordance with paragraph 349 of HC 395 (as amended). You will therefore be required to attend an interview about your application for asylum. You will receive details of this interview in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Immigration Officer  
UK Immigration Service