



Home Office

**Interventions and Sanctions Unit**  
Immigration Enforcement  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF

Web: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Via: [www.WhatDoTheyknow.com](http://www.WhatDoTheyknow.com)

25 November 2013

**Our Ref: FOI 29596**

Dear Mr Featonby

Thank you for your recent request in which you ask for information regarding the function of the Interventions and Sanctions Unit. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested the following information:

*What is the function of the "Interventions and Sanctions Unit" within the Home Office?*

I can confirm that the Home Office does not hold the information which you have requested. Under the Act, the Home Office is obliged to release information that is held in recorded form. The information you have requested is not held in such a format.

However, I will attempt to answer your request by providing you with the following information regarding the Interventions and Sanctions Unit. On the 26 March 2013, the Home Secretary announced that the Government was to split the UK Border Agency. Following this decision, on the 1 April 2013 two separate directorates, each headed up by a director general, were created within the Home Office. These directorates are:

- UK Visas and Immigration – responsible for handling visa applications to come to the UK; applications to extend a stay in the UK on a temporary and permanent basis; and applications for asylum, appeals, correspondence and sponsor management.
- Immigration Enforcement - responsible for investigating immigration offences; detaining and removing individuals with no right to be in the UK; and preventing abuse of the immigration system.

Following the creation of these two separate directorates, the Interventions and Sanctions Unit (I&SU) was set up in June 2013 within Immigration Enforcement to encourage greater compliance with the immigration rules. The unit has overall responsibility for removing incentives for people to stay illegally and encourage those who are in the country unlawfully to regularize their stay or leave the UK. This is achieved by ensuring a range of interventions and sanctions are systematically applied to deny access to services and benefits for those who are unlawfully in the UK. The unit works closely with government departments and a range of other partners across the public and private sectors to identify those migrants accessing such services and benefits to which they are not entitled.

I&SU also has responsibility for the issuing and collection of financial penalties to those employers found to be employing illegal workers and the subsequent debt recovery process through third parties.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **29596**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team  
Home Office  
Ground Floor, Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
e-mail: [info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Bartram', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jonathan Bartram  
Interventions and Sanctions Unit