



# VISA BYTES

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## Highly Trusted Sponsor – Tier 4

Last week I reported on changes to Tier 4. The application process for Sponsors has been changed within a few days of the new system.

It is no longer necessary to send the accompanying spreadsheet in support of the application. The only documents that now have to be sent are the application form and fee. Further information can however be requested at a later stage and where it is registered must be sent within 21 days.

The time for lodging applications has not changed.

Public funded institutions must apply by 30/06/2010 to retain their licence

Other Sponsors must apply by 30/04/2010 to enable them to continue to offer NQF3 and work placement courses up to 30/06/2010 or until their application is decided whichever is sooner. If no application is made by 30/04/2010 they will not be able to

offer these courses after 01/05/2010.

### Period of 'A' rating

Applicants must have a minimum of 6 consecutive months as 'A' rated sponsor prior to the application for all tiers for which they hold a licence.

### Volcanic Ash

Those unable to travel because of the volcanic ash and whose visas have now expired have been reassured by the UK Border Agency that they will not be penalised.

The traveller must have proof of planned travel before their visas expired. They do not have to take any further action.

Maria Fernandes is a principal of Fernandes Vaz solicitors who specialise in immigration and nationality law. She has substantial experience of immigration and is an accredited member of the Immigration Law Panel.

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