

News story: Civil news: immigration and asylum, clarification on claiming for hourly rates matters

These matters are set out in para 8.77(d) of the 2013 Immigration Specification, and are subject to cost limits as described at paragraphs 8.80 to 8.89 of that specification.

CWA, the system onto which such claims are reported, does not contain validation to enforce such cost limits.

Providers should ensure that the costs claimed in their submission do not exceed the limit that applied at the time they were incurred.

For example, if costs totalling £835 have been incurred, but the cost limit was £800, then costs reported should be limited to £800. CWA will not automatically limit costs to the applicable cost limit.

Where the reasonable costs of attendance at an interview with the Home Office are to be claimed, you should enter '1' in the Home Office interview field. The total profit costs incurred, subject to any agreed limit, including these additional reasonable costs, should then be reported in the 'Profit Costs exc VAT' field.

The guidance for reporting controlled work matters will shortly be updated to clarify this point.

Further information

[2013 Standard Civil Contract \(Immigration\)](#)

News story: Civil news: reminder for Immigration providers, reimbursement of client travel

The travel costs of a client for the purposes of attending their office to give instructions, are payable under the immigration contract.

When claiming travel costs, paragraphs 8.49 to 8.51 of the 2013 Standard Civil Contract (Immigration Specification), explicitly states that such costs

are claimable where:

- at the time the matter is opened there is not a more local provider
- the client is in receipt of NASS support or is an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) who is supported by Social Services
- the client is informed, prior to the attendance, that the reasonable costs of their travel on the cheapest available public transport are then claimable

This provision aids those clients who are required to make journeys outside of their locality to instruct their legal representative.

If providers encounter issues in applying this provision, they should contact their contract manager to discuss further.

Further information

[2013 Standard Civil Contract \(Immigration\)](#)

News story: Civil news: requests for supplementary matter starts in immigration and asylum

Providers likely to use their immigration new matter starts before the end of March 2018 can request supplementary matters from their contract manager.

Earlier this year, the Legal Aid Agency invited existing immigration and asylum providers in London and Mid, South West, and Coastal Kent, to submit expressions of interest for supplementary matter starts to deliver immigration and asylum legal help, specifically for providing advice to asylum seekers being transferred from other areas of the UK to London by National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS) and/or Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) arriving in the UK following the closure of the camp at Calais. The [outcome of that exercise](#) can be found on GOV.UK.

If you are witnessing relating to changes in dispersal, particularly those as a result of any increases in the dispersal of UASC, you should inform your contract manager.

Further information regarding requesting supplementary matter starts can be found at paras 1.20 to 1.23 of the 2013 Standard Civil Contract (General Specification).

Press release: Foreign Secretary visits Libya

The Government is stepping up efforts to deal with threats posed to the UK from Libya as the Foreign Secretary makes his second visit to the country in less than six months.

The Foreign Secretary has been in Tripoli today where he met with the Libyan Prime Minister, Fayyez Al-Serraj, to discuss what more the UK can do to support the Government of National Accord and the UN-led political process to help stabilise Libya.

British Ambassador Peter Millett explains the UK's support for a stable and peaceful Libya

UK support for Libya

The Foreign Secretary also outlined a package of additional support to help Libya deal with the terrorist threat and to tackle illegal migration. This includes:

- £3 million to remove improvised explosive devices from Sirte, following the success in pushing Daesh out of the city earlier this year.
- £1million to fund demining training across Libya, including in Sirte and Benghazi.
- £1million to help rebuild critical infrastructure and restore basic public services through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UK has already contributed £1.5million to the UNDP since 2016.
- £2.75 million to support women's participation in peacemaking and rebuilding Libya.
- £1.29 million of new UK aid funding over the next two years to support displaced people with food, essential hygiene items and urgent healthcare needs.

The Government has also agreed to increase its engagement with the Libyan law enforcement authorities to tackle organised crime and trafficking, building on the work the UK is already doing with European partners to strengthen the ability of the Libyan Coastguard to secure its own borders in a manner which respects international law.

During his visit to Tripoli, the Foreign Secretary met with the Libyan Naval Coastguard to hear about their UK training. Delivered by the Royal Navy, training has focussed on activities such as search and rescue, boarding and inspecting vessels, human rights and the treatment of migrants.

Speaking from Tripoli, the Foreign Secretary said:

Libya is the front line for many challenges which left unchecked can pose problems for us in the UK – particularly illegal migration and the threat from terrorism.

That's why it is so important that we work with the Libyan government and our partners to help bring stability to Libya, stopping it from becoming a fertile ground for terrorists, gun runners and people traffickers in close proximity to Europe.

This means supporting the new UN Representative and the political process, but it also means practical efforts too – including the new kit we are providing to make Sirte safer for Libyans and the work we are doing to ensure that the Libyan coastguard can secure their own borders, reducing the number of illegal migrants heading for Europe.

During his visit, the Foreign Secretary met with Libyan Prime Minister Fayyez Al-Serraj, Foreign Minister Mohamed Siala and the President of Libya's High State Council Abdurrahman Swehli. Mr Johnson underlined the importance of Libya's different political and social groups working together to overcome the current political conflict.

The meetings in Libya followed talks in Tunis on Tuesday evening with Ghassan Salamé, the new United Nations Special Representative on Libya. The UK believes the appointment of Mr Salamé presents an opportunity to break the political deadlock and build momentum towards amending the Libyan Political Agreement so that it delivers for all Libyans.

While in Tunis, the Foreign Secretary met with senior members of the Tunisian government, including Tourism Minister Salma Elloumi to discuss how we can strengthen security and economic ties between the UK and Tunisia, particularly following the recent decision to no longer advise against travel to most of the country.

The Foreign Secretary also visited the Bardo Museum, to pay respects those who died in the terrorist attack there in 2015.

After the visit, the Foreign Secretary said:

Tunisia has made great strides in its democratic transition since the revolution of 2011. I particularly applaud its promotion of women's rights and gender equality, including the ground-breaking new law on violence against women.

Tunisian security improvements, supported in part through UK assistance, meant we could change our travel advice last month. The UK is a steadfast partner for Tunisia in building its prosperity and security, and combating terrorism, and I look forward to even stronger ties between us.

News story: Minister for the Middle East, Alistair Burt, visits Egypt

Minister for the Middle East, Alastair Burt, will arrive in Cairo on Wednesday to meet with his Egyptian counterparts to discuss British-Egyptian cooperation and UK support to Egypt, especially economic and educational reform. He will discuss regional issues and international efforts to combat terrorism with Foreign Minister HE Sameh Shoukry, as well as meetings with the Minister of Interior, Education and business leaders. It is the Minister's first visit to Egypt since he was appointed to his new position as the first ever joint State Minister for the Middle East and North Africa for both the Foreign Office and and Department for International Development.

The visit is an opportunity to reinforce the UK's position as Egypt's top economic partner. The UK is the number one investor in Egypt: investments in the first half of 2016/17 alone amounted to \$2.9 billion.

The Minister will discuss new investments and new UK support for Egypt's economic reforms, including through providing additional technical assistance to reform policies in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Investment, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Education. Mr Burt will oversee implementation of the \$150 million support agreed by Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson in his meeting with President Sisi in February and his visit is an opportunity to explore how best to use the loan.

Mr Burt will also discuss the importance of job creation in order for the Egyptian economy to flourish, and will meet with young Egyptian social entrepreneurs. The UK is working with the Egyptian government on licensing reform to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start their own business, which will improve the investment environment, benefiting both Egyptian companies and UK investors.

As well as the economy, he will meet with Minister for Education, Tarek Shawky, to discuss the UK's support for the Egyptian government's progressive plans to reform education, which includes technical assistance to the Ministry for Education. The UK is also supporting education in Egypt through scholarships such as the British Government's Chevening program, which gives fully-paid scholarships to study at the UK's top universities. This is a world-wide program, and Egypt is number one globally in the number of students applying for the scholarship. Both the UK and Egypt have faced senseless terrorist attacks recently, leading to the deaths of many innocent people. The visit is an important time to reinforce UK-Egyptian cooperation in facing the shared threat of terrorism, and how to combat radicalisation.

Minister Alistair Burt:

I look forward to my first visit to Egypt following my re-appointment as a UK Foreign Office Minister. The UK is a longstanding friend of Egypt and this visit to Cairo is an ideal opportunity for me to discuss further UK-Egyptian collaboration in many areas, including education and economic reform.

Ambassador Ambassador John Casson said:

No country is doing more than Britain to support Egypt's education and economy – the pivotal issues in a pivotal country for this region and the world. The UK is Egypt's number one economic partner: the largest foreign investor in Egypt, and a strong supporter of the Government's economic reform program. And we know that alongside economic growth, education is crucial in giving dreams and opportunities for the people of Egypt. Education and economy will be at the heart of this visit to keep Britain as number one partner and take our partnership to the next level in support of the government and people of Egypt in their ambitious reform program.