



Home Office

Immigration and Nationality Directorate
MPs' Correspondence Section, PO Box 1586, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 2XZ

Kathryn Harrison
Deputy Director Immigration Service

Dr Caroline Lucas, MEP
Suite 58, The Hop Exchange
24 Southwark Street
London
SE1 1TY

Our Ref: B1191057

Your Ref:

11 October 2007

Dear Dr Lucas,

Thank you for your letter to Liam Byrne of 12 September in regard to Ms Pegah Emam Bakhsh, concerning her immigration matters. Your Letter has been passed to me to reply and I apologise for the delay in my reply.

I regret to inform you that information contained in applications to the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) is treated as being strictly confidential and is not normally disclosed to third parties. This is of course, unless they are the authorised representatives of the applicant. Please accept my apologies but the Border and Immigration Agency has not received any notification from Ms Bakhsh authorising you to receive information about her case.

I hope that you will understand that this is not secrecy for its own sake but simply a matter of protecting the privacy of the individual. I can confirm that all applications for asylum are carefully considered based on accurate up to date information, including where appropriate a person's sexuality. Each case is treated on its own individual circumstances and merits. The United Kingdom has a long tradition of providing refuge to those in genuine need of the protection afforded by the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention. However in order to maintain the integrity of the asylum system it is important that those who are not genuinely in need of such protection should return home.

Please be reassured that the information you have submitted will be placed on file and will be fully considered by the Border and Immigration Agency and any further consequence to this case will be carefully investigated.



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Yours sincerely

A. Whelall

AH Kathryn Harrison



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