

Briefing on the Chief Inspector of UKBA

Chief Inspector of UKBA, John Vine

In April 2008, John Vine was appointed independent Chief Inspector of the UKBA by the Home Secretary and he began work on 7 July. He will be based at 10 Great George Street, Westminster and will report to HS and to parliamentary committees.

Mr. Vine was chief constable of Tayside police since 2000, during which time he was president of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland. He is keen to stress his independence and for this reason he will ask for a change of title.

The Inspector will focus on overall efficiency and effectiveness across the Agency in the UK with a particular emphasis on:

- overall performance;
- the quality of decision making in the agency and its contracted partners;
- how UKBA enforces the immigration legislation and rules,
- how UKBA provides information, and
- how UKBA treats applicants and claimants.

He will work closely with the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

His workplan is as follows:

1. Set up the office (currently he has a small team of 4 staff members);
2. Design a plan to incorporate other independent inspectorates including the race monitor, certification monitor, complaints audit committee, monitor of accommodation centres. Will also examine the status and working relationship with APCI. It will not include the chief inspectorate of prisons in relation to the immigration detention estate, or the prisons and probation ombudsman and IMBs. Will not include the Entry Clearance Monitor as this role reports to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs but will work closely together.
3. Design a programme of inspection for the coming 3-4 years. This programme can and will be influenced by his consultations with important stakeholders- he is undertaking the consultations in September/October and November.

The Inspector will also be responsible for monitoring the UK's extra territorial border control measures including juxtaposed controls.

See 'An independent and transparent assessment of immigration: Policy statement, March 2007'.

Relation to current entry clearance monitor:

CI's duties include inspecting and reporting on the provision of information, practice and procedure in making decisions, and the handling of complaints. His remit also extends to decisions to issue visas which, at present, are not subject to external scrutiny, and decisions with full appeal rights.