

Human rights audit 2005
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

Context

The European Convention on Human Rights was incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. As a public authority the OISC has a duty, under section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998, to protect Convention Rights.

Commitment

The OISC is committed to ensuring that its policy and practice are Human Rights Act compliant. This is not only because the law requires this but because we aim to be a fair, transparent and accountable organisation.

The Human Rights Act applies to all areas of our work:

- As a regulator: authorising immigration advisers to practise, and dealing with complaints against advisers
- As a criminal prosecution agency
- As an employer

Human Rights Audit

In early 2002 the OISC began working with the human rights organisation Justice to ensure that its policy and practice are Human Rights Act compliant. Justice identified the main rights applicable to the work of the OISC:

- Article 6: The right to a fair hearing
- Article 14: Prohibition on Discrimination
- Article 8: Right to Respect for Private and Family Life, Home and Correspondence
- Article 1, Protocol 1: Protection of Property
- Article 14: Prohibition on Discrimination

We have worked in partnership with Justice to undertake a human rights audit of the OISC. Any weaknesses identified will be addressed through changes in policy and practice.