

JOELSON WILSON

Update from our Employment Team 28th February 2008 New and forthcoming changes

Immigrant Workers:

From **29 February 2008** employers could be fined up to £10,000 for employing illegal workers without making the proper checks. There is also the risk an unlimited fine and a prison sentence for employing a person knowing that they are not entitled to work in the UK.

A new points-based system for visa applications will be phased in throughout this year. Visas will be granted according to how many points an applicant is awarded in different categories.

Most visa applicants will need to find an employer to sponsor their application. The employer will have to certify that the person is able to do a particular job. The employer will then have an ongoing responsibility to report if the person stops doing the job or breaks any rules.

The first phase starts on **29 February 2008** when any highly skilled foreign nationals currently working in Britain who want to extend their stay will need to apply under the new system.

Compensation for Unfair Dismissal:

On **1 February 2008** the maximum compensatory award for unfair dismissal rose from £60,600 to £63,000.

New Statutory Maternity Pay:

From **6 April 2008** statutory maternity pay will increase to £117.18 a week.

For more information, contact our Employment Team:

Jennifer Maxwell-Harris
Carina Sinclair

020 7307 2302
020 7307 3972

jmh@joelsonwilson.com
cjs@joelsonwilson.com

JOELSON WILSON & CO
Solicitors
30 Portland Place
London W1B 1LZ

T: (+44) (0)20 7580 5721
F: (+44) (0)20 7580 2251
E: info@joelsonwilson.com
W: www.joelsonwilson.com