



**Duncan Lewis
Solicitors**



We give people a voice

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Duncan Lewis Solicitors serves corporate entities and private individuals in over 25 practice areas from offices throughout London and across England and Wales. Established in 1998, the firm has over 550 lawyers delivering legal services in over 60 languages. We have been recognised by independent legal directories, The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, as a top tier firm and described as a “diligent and professional team that is prepared to go the extra mile for its clients”.

Our head office is based in London, on Fenchurch Street, and we are the largest provider of publicly funded (legal aid) legal services in the country.

Our Services

We are one of the UK’s leading business immigration practices, with a highly successful track record in providing expert advice to multinationals, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro-companies, charities and educational establishments.

We advise on the following business immigration matters:

- Business immigration for companies
- Investors and entrepreneurs
- Sponsorship licences
- Audits and consulting
- Civil penalties/compliance and illegal working
- Brexit

Visa Types

We advise employers on the immigration status of their employees and how to sponsor them if necessary through sponsorship licences.

We offer expert legal advice on:

Tier 1 Visa

Tier 1 of the UK’s points-based system is open to prospective migrants who are of high-worth to the UK economy. We offer specialist legal advice to entrepreneurs and investors on:

- Global talent visas
- Innovator visas
- Investor visas
- Start-up visas

Skilled Worker Route and Intra-company Visas

We advise businesses, institutions and organisations on Business visit, Intra-company and Skilled Worker visas.

Skilled Worker and Intra-company visas are available to skilled migrants who wish to come to the UK to take up a job they have been offered by an employer who can sponsor their visa application.

Temporary Worker Visas

We offer legal advice on short-term work visas that allow the holder to live and work in the UK for a limited period. Such visas include:

- Charity Worker visas
- Creative and Sporting visas
- Seasonal Worker visas
- Youth Mobility Scheme visas

Other Business/Worker Visa Routes

Business and worker visas are available to allow migrants to come to the UK and set up in business or work in the UK, these include:

- Extension applications for Tier 1 Entrepreneurs (will remain open until 5th April 2023 and settlement applications until 5th April 2025)
- Health and Care Worker visas
- Representative of an Overseas Business visas
- Sportsperson visas
- The Hong Kong BN(O) visas
- Turkish Businessperson visa extensions
- UK Ancestry visas

Sponsorship Licences

To sponsor skilled non-British national migrants, employers must have a sponsorship licence granted by the Home Office. We can assist with certificates of sponsorship, sponsor licence applications, and sponsorship licence renewals, refusals, suspensions and revocations.

Audits and Consulting

Businesses that employ migrants must be fully aware of their duties and responsibilities, and the consequences of failing to act correctly.

Our team provides the following services:

- In-house training for HR departments on reporting, immigration updates and best practice advice on immigration due diligence
- Legal representation on official Home Office audits/compliance visits
- Mock immigration/compliance audits
- Record keeping and monitoring duties
- Recruitment advice
- Right to work/compliance audits

Civil Penalties/Compliance and Illegal Working

Employers in the UK have a duty to ensure that each employee has a legal right to work in the country. If the appropriate checks are not carried out and the employee does not have the right to work in the UK, employers risk a fine of up to £20,000 for each illegal worker.

We assist employers with all aspects of work checks, including advice on the immigration status of their employees and how to sponsor them to work in the UK.

Brexit

We advise business and employees on a range of Brexit matters which are still relevant. Freedom of movement for EEA nationals ended on 1st January 2021 where they must now comply with the requirements under 'the new immigration system'.

The new immigration rules do not adversely impact those European nationals together with qualifying family members already in the UK, or those that arrived by 31st December 2020, and we can assist these individuals with applications under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to remain in the UK until 30 June 2021. The EUSS will grant either pre-settled status (which can be upgraded to settled status after 5 years leave), or settled status allowing EU nationals to continue to work and live in the UK.

Businesses, institutions and organisations must now obtain a sponsorship licence if they wish to continue to recruit EU or non-EU nationals.

Fees and Funding

In all privately funded cases, our aim is to offer fair prices in exchange for the specialist services we provide. We offer competitive hourly rates and fixed fee packages. At your first meeting with us, we will discuss with you how we calculate our charges.

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