

[News story: Civil news: emergency out of hours immigration applications](#)

We have uploaded guidance in the form of a 'quick guide' called 'Emergency Out of Hours Immigration Application Process'.

This is available on the Client and Cost Management System (CCMS) website. The new process starts on 1 February 2018.

What are the changes?

- a reference number will be provided when an application is granted
- you will then need to upload the application to CCMS quoting this reference number in the merits report

The date the application was granted will be backdated by CCMS to the date the reference number was granted. The case can then be progressed in CCMS.

Why are we making this change?

The previous process relied upon the Corporate Information System (CIS). This change will:

- reduce the number of new applications being processed using CIS
- bring emergency out of hours immigration applications in line with other areas of case processing

Further information

[CCMS website: Provider Quick Guides](#) – see 'Making an Initial Application' for new 'Emergency Out of Hours Immigration Application Process' quick guide

asylum-out-of-hours@justice.gov.uk – urgent enquiries about the out of hours service

[Press release: £21 million Sheffield flood defence completed](#)

A £21 million flood defence scheme to better protect hundreds of businesses in Sheffield's Lower Don Valley

A £21 million flood defence scheme to better protect hundreds of businesses in Sheffield's Lower Don Valley has opened today (Thursday 25 January).

The Lower Don Valley area is second only to the city centre for economic importance to Sheffield. The new flood alleviation scheme will benefit more than 500 businesses and safeguard around five thousand jobs, key roads in and out of the city and homes along a five mile stretch of the River Don.

New 'hard defences' have been installed along an 8km stretch of the river to raise flood defence levels comprising new gravity walls, installation of flood gates and the fitting of more than 300 flap valves to pipes and openings which discharge to the river.

Sir James Bevan, Environment Agency Chief Executive, said:

Flooding has devastating costs for people and businesses – and we know this has been the case for the people of Sheffield. This fantastic scheme will not only benefit homes and businesses in the city but it will also safeguard thousands of jobs due to the increased level of protection it provides.

It's been great to see Sheffield City Council and the Environment Agency working together in partnership to better protect the Lower Don Valley.

It is the first scheme of its kind in the UK to have business owners contributing to the costs of the flood protection through the creation of a formal Business Improvement District – a business led partnership created to bring additional services to local businesses. The Environment Agency and Defra contributed £19.3 million towards the total capital cost (£20.7 million), with local businesses contributing £1.4 million.

Floods Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

This partnership funding model showcases the way industry can work with Government to provide wider benefits to the community with local business investment in this project. The Sheffield Lower Don Valley scheme is protecting jobs, businesses and vital infrastructure which the whole city can be very proud of.

In Yorkshire, the Government is investing £430 million over the next four years to reduce the flood risk to a further 63,000 homes and businesses.

The Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, Sir James Bevan, and the Leader of Sheffield City Council Councillor Julie Dore were among those at the event, also attended by local business owners, to mark the completion of

the work.

Councillor Julie Dore said:

I am delighted to see we have fulfilled our promise to strengthen our defences against floods. I would like to express my thanks to all the partners involved in creating flood protection that is fit for purpose.

Our investment in this scheme means we are not only securing the future of existing businesses and homes but also making land more suitable for new homes and regeneration. This will create more jobs, investment and growth in the city.

Today marks the beginning of our commitment to preventing any future devastation. In the coming months and years we will be doing more work to ensure that we reduce the risk of floods and protect residents, homes and businesses across Sheffield.

The scheme has been shortlisted for an award as the best project over £5 million in the Institute of Civil Engineers Yorkshire and Humber Awards 2018.

Sheffield has suffered severe flooding with the most recent in 2007, 2009 and 2012.

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Form: River Thames accommodation licence: application for new accommodation

You need a River Thames accommodation licence for any structure on, in or over the river or cut into the river bank.

Complete this application form to apply for permission to install a new accommodation structure.

Examples of a structure are jetties, pontoons, docks and slipways.

To complete the form print and fill in the above PDF and return to the Environment Agency at the address contained within the form.

News story: Search for leader of Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation Launched

Government is investing £9 million in the centre as part of plans to make the UK the best place in the world for businesses developing artificial intelligence (AI) to start, grow and thrive.

It will advise on the measures needed to enable and ensure safe, ethical and innovative uses of data-driven technologies.

The UK already benefits from a world-class regulatory regime and the centre will build on this by making sure we understand and respond to the rapidly

evolving ways in which data is impacting our lives.

The centre will make sure we have a governance regime which fully supports both ethical and innovative uses of these technologies. It will deliver its work through extensive engagement with industry, regulators, civil society and the public.

Digital and Culture Secretary Matt Hancock said:

We are determined to be the best place in the world to start and grow a digital business while ensuring safe, ethical and innovative uses of data-driven technologies.

Our Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation will be crucial in helping us achieve this aim by building public confidence, providing certainty for business and helping maximise the exceptional potential of AI and data.

Today we're launching a call for a chair to lead the interim centre. This is a fantastic opportunity to shape its early work and establish the permanent centre on a firm and credible footing.

It is essential to get the design of the permanent centre right and a public consultation on its exact remit and functions will be launched in due course.

Expression of Interest: Chair of Interim Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation

The interim Chair will have a unique opportunity to shape the early phase of the Centre's work, as well as help to establish the permanent Centre on a firm and credible footing. Read information about the opportunity and [how to apply](#).