

Press release: Sentence increase for fraudsters who carried out student visa scam

Three people found guilty of running a student visa scam have had their sentence increased by the Court of Appeal for being too lenient.

Tashina Nayyar, Muhammed Babar Bashir and Koteswara Nallamothe were involved in two separate schemes worth over £650,000 that sold over 1,300 fake Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS) documents to people wanting to enter or remain in the UK illegally.

Nayyar was sentenced in January at Manchester Crown Court to 2 years 3 months' imprisonment. Bashir and Nallamothe were then sentenced in March at the same Court to 6 years' imprisonment and 2 years' imprisonment suspended for 2 years, respectively.

The sentences of Nayyar, Bashir and Nallamothe have now been increased by the Court of Appeal to 4 years, 8 years, and 3 years 11 months respectively, after the Attorney General's Office referred them as unduly lenient.

After the hearing, the Solicitor General, Lucy Frazer QC MP, said:

"This fraudulent conduct deliberately undermined the UK immigration and education systems for the financial benefit of the offenders. The offenders abused a system designed to help genuine students from outside the EU. I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has agreed that their original sentences failed to reflect the risks that this type of offending creates."