

ELECTIVE SESSIONS A: WORKING WITH THE HOME OFFICE

Presenters



Anna Lacey

Head of Student Policy, Migration
Policy Unit, Home Office



Ollie Carlisle

Deputy Director for PBS Study
Operations, UK Visas and
Immigration

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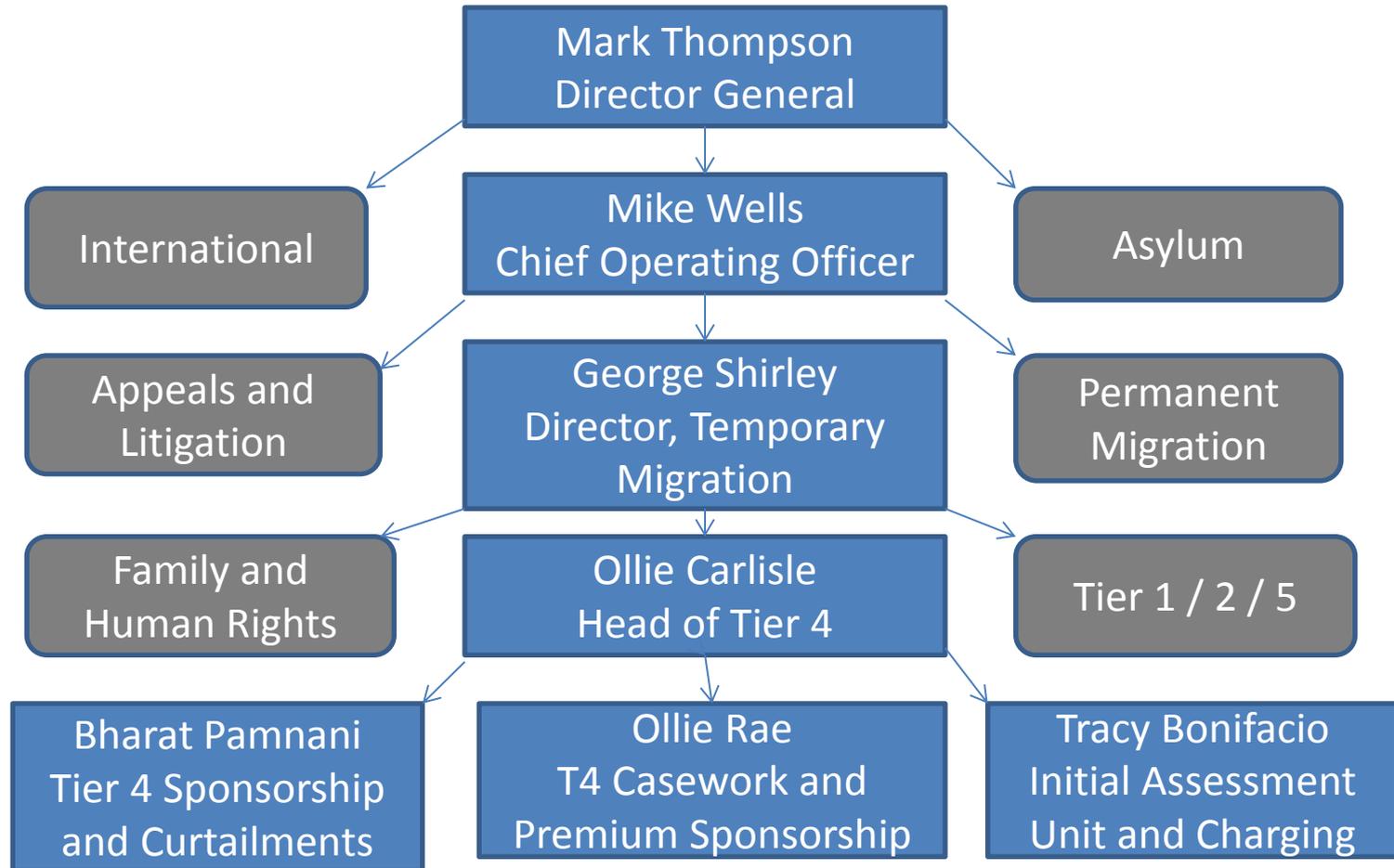
Working with the Home Office

– Tier 4 Overview and Update

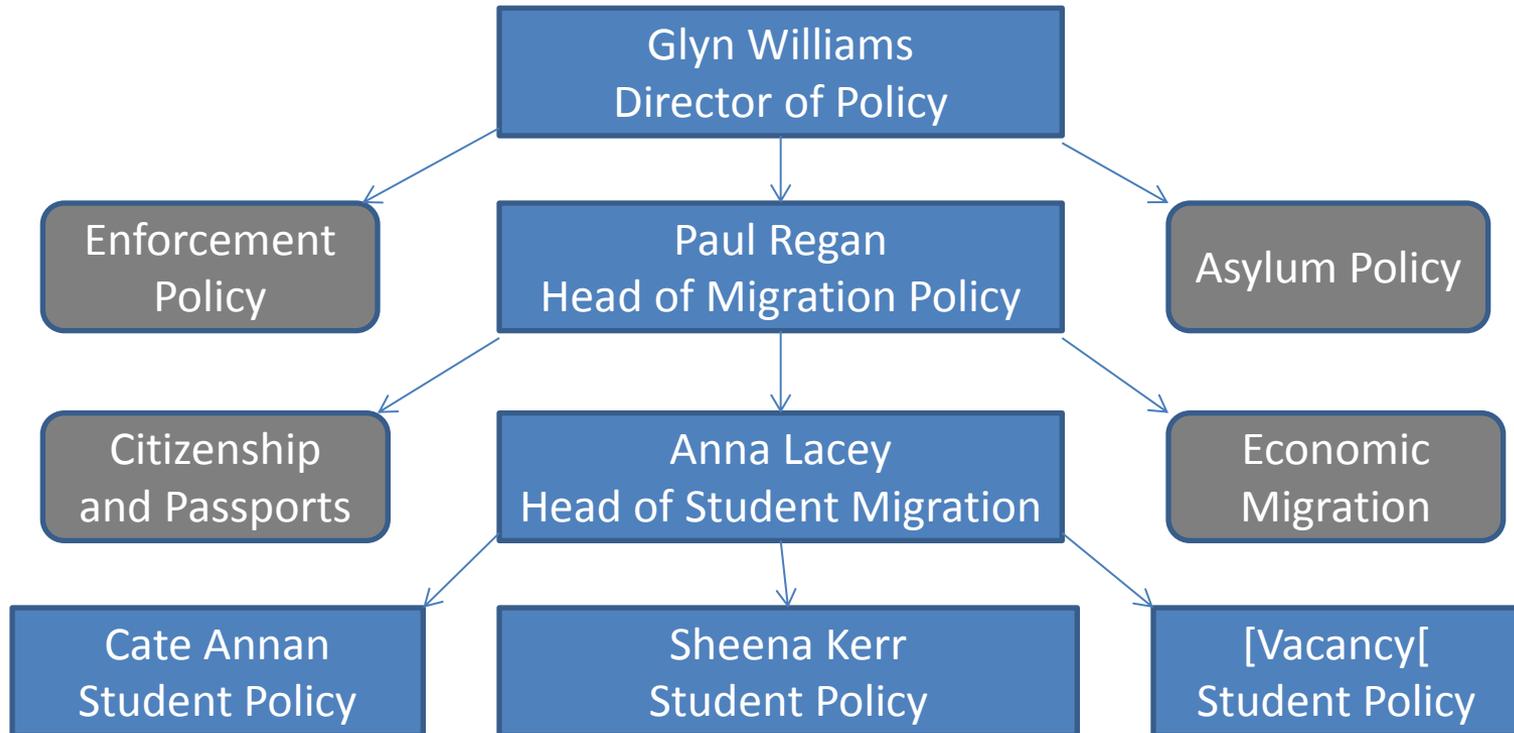
Independent Higher Education Conference
29 November 2016

Ollie Carlisle, UK Visas & Immigration
Anna Lacey, Immigration and Border Policy Directorate

UKVI operational structure (abridged...)



Immigration and Border Policy Directorate structure (abridged...)



UK Visas & Immigration – Tier 4

Service standards & processing times

99.4%

of straightforward cases decided within 8 week service standard

Straightforward Priority cases decided within 10 days

100%

32 calendar days average time for standard decisions

Average time for Priority decisions **6.3 working days**

UK Visas & Immigration

Priority service

18 March 2016 extended to in-country applicants at all sponsors

10 day service standard

6.3 days average turnaround time from application to decision

“That was very quick. I am very pleased with the service you provided”

“I have no words to express my gratitude for all your efforts.”

UK Visas & Immigration Administrative Review & BRP Errors

96% of ARs completed within 28 days

Average turnaround time **12.5** days

Main reason for overturn – incorrect expiry



7 days average
processing time

99% receive a
decision within the target
of 15 days or less

88% of overseas visa
applications are
successful

More than
**273,000 study
related visas**
(T4 & Student
Visitor) issued
globally

Nearly **3 million
applications**
received in 2015

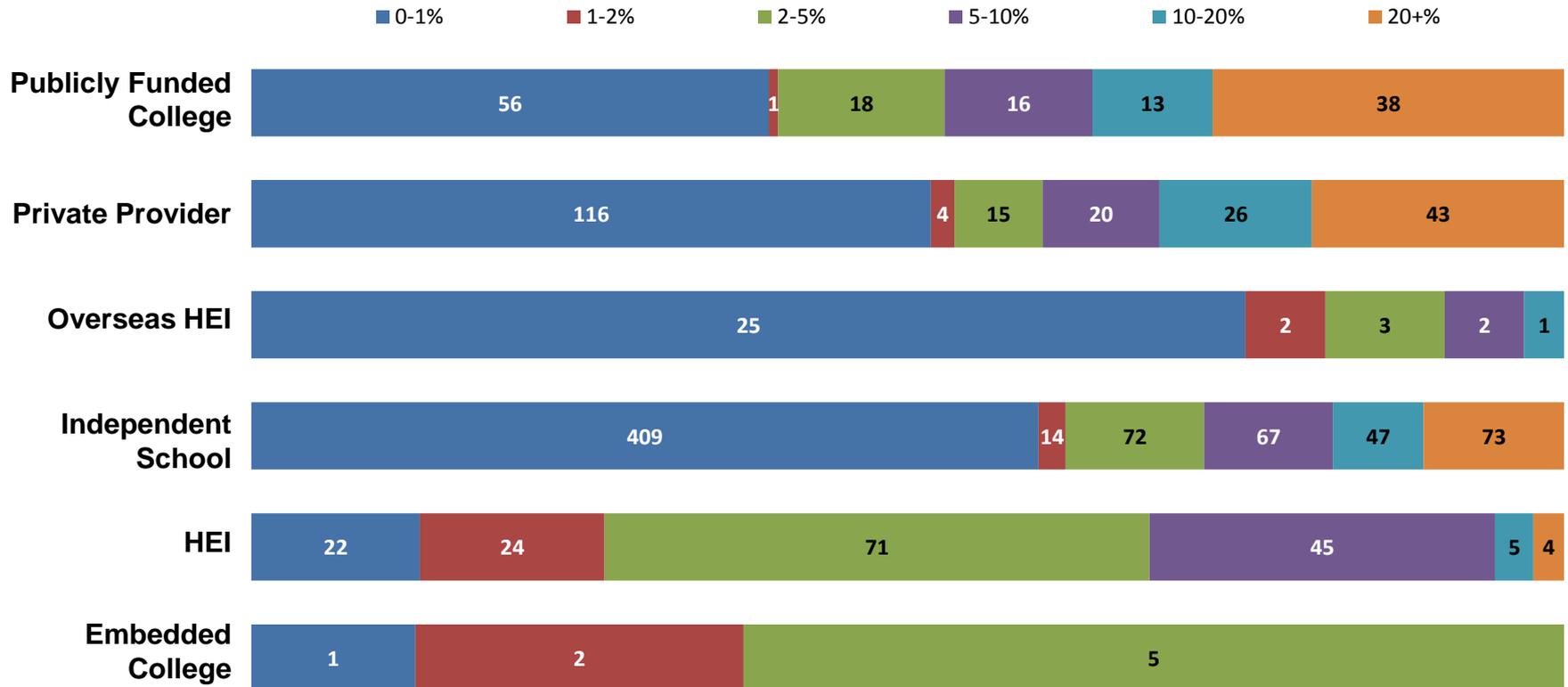
Nearly
500,000 visas
issued in China in
2015

BCA - The Impact of the 10% Refusal Rate

- The refusal rate threshold for a BCA dropped from 20% to 10% in November 2014.
- Of the 1,563 applications received in 2015/16 that have been decided,
502 (32.12%) needed to have discretion applied to pass the BCA on the basis of failing their refusal rate.
 - 221 failed to meet the 10% threshold for their refusal rate and had either used less than 50 CAS or were an independent school;
 - A further 281 had no data to assess.
- Of the 221 that failed, 77 would have met under the old 20% criteria.

BCA - Refusal Rate by Sector

Refusal Rate by Sector*



*Applications received between April 2015 and March 2016, that have been approved or refused, excluding those with no data

Tier 4 Premium Customer Service Team

180 Tier 4 Sponsors pay £8,000 per year for the service which provides:

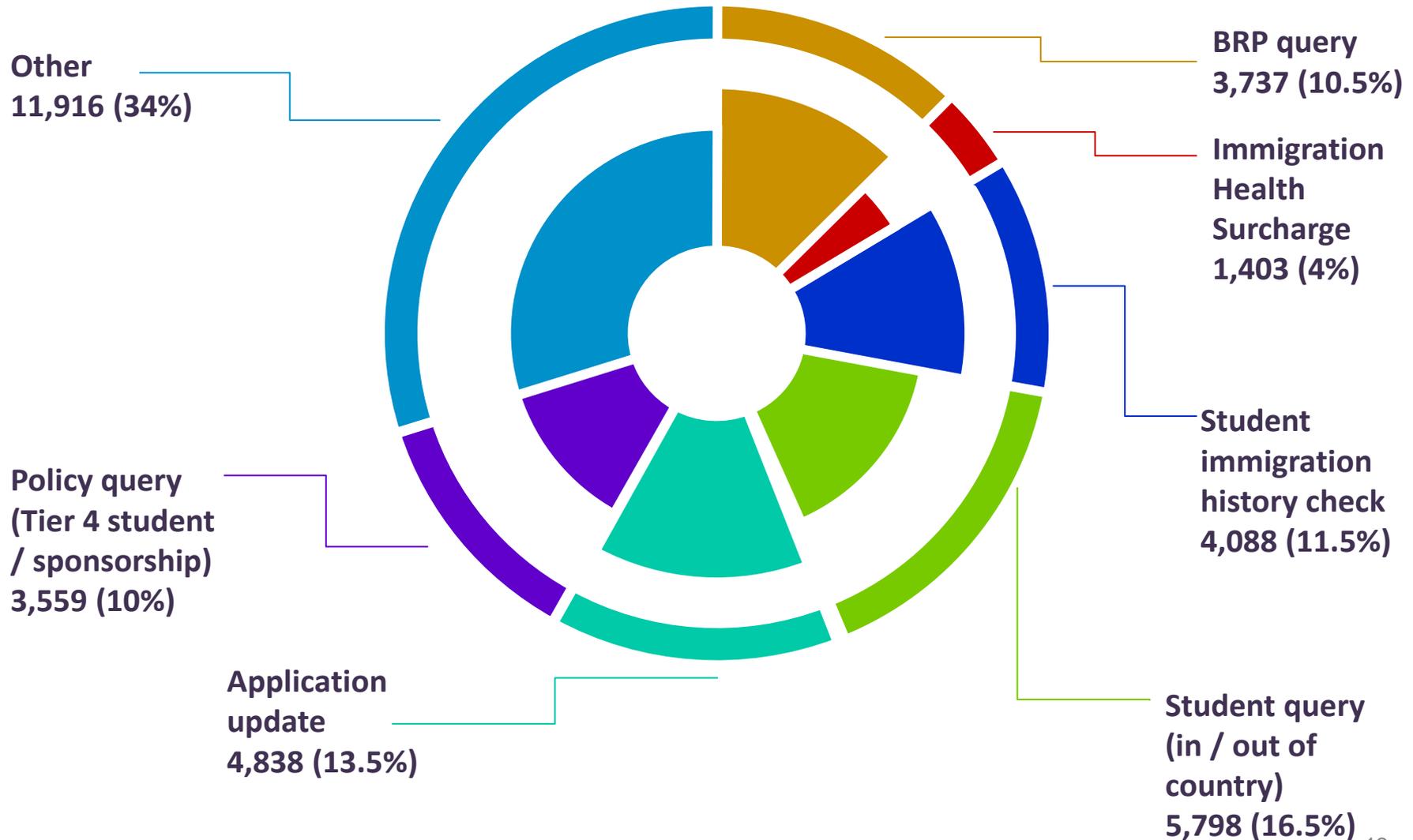
- A named licence manager and regional account manager
- Student status checks and policy enquiries
- Application updates
- Priority treatment for post licence requests
- Monthly Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies MI reports
- Invitation to events and courtesy visits

In the last year the team has:

- ✓ Responded to 38,548 queries
- ✓ Increased engagement by making 120 sponsor visits
- ✓ Delivered six sponsor events
- ✓ Delivered a Curtailment Workshop
- ✓ Produced a quarterly Newsletter
- ✓ Implemented a process of key date reminders

Make up of the 37,000 queries

(April 2015 – March 2016)



UK Visas & Immigration operational changes...

- Access UK
- Scanning
- Proving Things to Government
- Notify
- Student Departure Rate
- On-shoring

November 2016 Rules changes

- Academic progression
 - Student union sabbatical officers, students on the Doctorate Extension Scheme, or postgraduate doctors or dentists on a recognised Foundation Programme
 - Integrated masters or PhD courses
 - Re-sits
- Proof of qualification from a ‘majority English-speaking’ country
 - Must provide original documentation produced by UK NARIC which confirms the assessment that the qualification meets the required standard
- Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate requirements
 - Dependants of a Points Based Migrant who wish to undertake a postgraduate qualification in certain sensitive subjects will need to apply for an ATAS certificate before they can study in the UK

Future policy thinking...

- On **4 October**, the Home Secretary announced the Government will **consult in the autumn on measures to improve the non-EU work and study immigration routes** to make sure that the UK is attracting the best and brightest.
- This will include looking, for the first time, at whether our student immigration rules should be tailored to the quality of the institution.
- We will seek the views of universities, colleges and businesses on the best way to deliver our commitments on immigration.

EU Referendum

- For British Citizens living in European countries and European citizens living in the UK there will be no immediate changes to their circumstances.
- For visitors, students, businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to invest and travel to the United Kingdom, there will be no immediate change to our visa policies. Future updates on this matter can be found on GOV.UK website.
- The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals here. The only circumstances in which that would not be possible are if British citizens' rights in other EU Member States were not protected in return.
- While there will be no immediate changes to anyone's immigration status, some reforms to our immigration system are likely. In the coming weeks and months, we will be considering potential reforms to our immigration system and how best to take these forward.





Home Office

Q&A

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