

Experiences of the ten-year route to settlement – survey

Thank you for considering filling out this survey looking at experiences of the ten-year route to settlement.

Please take time to read the following [information sheet](#) before starting the survey.

We think the survey will take about 30 minutes to complete. So settle down with a cup of tea and take your time. You can start the survey and come back to it at another time if you need a break.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. Do you give consent to take part in this survey?

Yes	
No	

If you ticked 'no' for question 1, you do not need to answer any further questions. Thank you for your time.

2. Are you on the ten-year route to settlement?

The ten-year route to settlement is a route for people to get indefinite leave to remain in the UK after ten years. People who are on the ten-year route to settlement have usually been given permission to remain in the UK outside the normal immigration rules, because they have a human rights-based claim to stay in the country.

People on the ten-year route to settlement tend to have family in the UK or have lived here for long periods, but do not otherwise qualify for shorter immigration routes.

You can find more details about the ten-year route in the information sheet.

Yes	
I was on a 10-year route to settlement, but I now have indefinite leave to remain	
No	
Don't know	

If you ticked 'no' or 'don't know' for question 2, you do not need to answer any further questions. Thank you for your time.

ABOUT YOUR SETTLEMENT JOURNEY

3. Apart from holidays and short visits abroad, how long have you lived in the UK continuously?

Less than one year	
1-5 years	
6-10 years	
11-15 years	
16-20 years	
20+ years	

4. What was your main reason for coming to the UK?

Tick the one that most applies. If you have come to the UK more than once, think about the last time you arrived.

For employment	
For study	
As a family member of a person already living in the UK	
As a family member of someone coming to the UK	
As a visitor	
To claim asylum	
Other reason (please specify)	

5. What is the reason that you are on the ten-year route?

I'm the parent of a British child	
I'm the parent of a settled child (i.e. a child with indefinite leave to remain)	
I'm the parent of a child who has lived in the UK for at least 7 years	
I'm the parent of a child with a serious medical condition	
I'm the partner or spouse of a British citizen	
I'm the partner or spouse of a settled person (i.e. my partner has indefinite leave to remain)	
I'm aged 18-24 and have lived at least half my life in the UK (or I was first granted leave on this basis)	
I have lived in the UK for 20+ years	
Other (please specify)	

6. How many times have you applied for / extended your limited leave to remain so far?

Limited Leave to Remain (LLR) is a temporary legal status that means you can work and study in the UK. You have to reapply every 30 months (2.5 years).

If you are currently awaiting the outcome of an extension application, please count how many grants of leave you have been given so far.

One grant of limited leave to remain	
Two grants of limited leave to remain	
Three grants of limited leave to remain	
Four grants of limited leave to remain	
Don't know	
Other	

7. Have you ever had a gap in leave on your pathway to settlement, for example for one of the following reasons?

This can happen for a number of reasons, for instance:

- *not using the correct application form*
- *not paying the correct application fee*
- *not paying the NHS surcharge*
- *errors made on the application form*
- *not supplying enough evidence*
- *allowing your residence permit to run out before you apply for a new one*

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

8. If you answered yes, what was the problem that led to the gap in your leave?

Tick all that apply.

I made a mistake when applying to extend my LLR, and my application was refused	
I could not afford to pay the visa fees and immigration health surcharge	
I did not supply enough evidence to support my application to extend my LLR so my application was refused	
I experienced domestic abuse or a relationship breakdown	
I became unemployed	
I experienced physical health issues	
I experienced mental health issues	
I became homeless	
I had problems with a solicitor / representative	
Other (please specify)	

NRPF

9. Do you currently have access to benefits (also known as recourse to public funds)?

Benefits include: Universal Credit, Child Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Pension Credit, etc.

Yes	
No	
No, but I am in receipt of support from my local authority under section 17 of the Children's Act	
No, but I am in receipt of Employment Support Allowance	
Don't know	

10. If you told us that you do currently have access to benefits, have you at any point during your time on the ten-year route had 'no recourse to public funds?'

'No recourse to public funds' (NRPF) is an immigration condition that excludes people from accessing most state benefits and some services, such as Universal Credit, Child Benefit and social housing.

If you're not sure, you can check your passport or the back of your biometric residence card for the words 'no public funds'. Please note, we are asking about the period on the 10-year route to settlement, not any time when you did not have leave to remain and so could not access public funds.

No	
Yes (for less than 12 months)	
Yes (for 1-5 years)	
Yes (for 6-10 years)	
Yes (for 11-15 years)	
Yes (for more than 15 years)	
Don't know	
Not applicable	
Other (please specify)	

11. If you told us that you do not currently have access to benefits, have you ever been able to access benefits?

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

12. Have you ever applied for a Change of Conditions to remove the NRPF condition?

A 'Change of Conditions' application is an application to the Home Office to request recourse to public funds.

I have applied and successfully had the NRPF condition removed	
I have applied but I was refused	
I applied and was initially refused but then I made another application and was successful	
I have never applied for a change of conditions because I did not need to do so	
I have never applied for a change of conditions because I did not know it was possible	
I have not applied for a change of conditions because I couldn't get the support I needed with the application	
Other (please specify)	

COSTS OF THE 10-YEAR ROUTE

13. To the best of your ability, please state what your **total** household income, including the income of all people living with you with whom you share expenses, was in the **last month** (after tax and including any benefits received).

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14. Do you ever struggle to meet any of the following essential living costs?

Tick all that apply.

Rent or mortgage	
Food	
Utilities (e.g. heating, electricity, water, internet)	
Travel costs (including car, if you have one)	
Costs related to children (e.g. nappies or baby products, children's clothes, school trips)	
Other (please specify)	

15. Think back to when you have had to pay to apply for or extend your leave to remain (including visa fees, Immigration Health Surcharge, solicitors' fees and any other costs). How did you pay for these?

Tick all that apply.

Income from employment	
Savings	
Credit card	
Gift of money by family, friends or religious organisation	
Borrowing from friends or family	
Borrowing from a religious organisation	
Borrowing from a bank, building society or credit union	
Borrowing from a payday loan	
Borrowing from another informal source	
I received a fee waiver for every application	
I received a fee waiver, but not for every application	
Other (please specify)	

16. If you said that you borrowed money, have you managed to pay back the money owed?

Yes, I have managed to repay the loan in full	
I have partially repaid the loan and I am still making payments	
I started to repay the loan, but I am unable to keep up with the payments	
I have not yet started to repay the loan at all	
Other (please specify)	

17. What impact would you say that the costs of applying for or renewing your leave to remain has had on your household finances overall?

Consider all the costs involved with applying for, or renewing, your leave to remain (i.e. visa fees, the Immigration Health Surcharge, solicitor's fees, appointment fees and any other related costs).

Tick the one that most applies to you.

I am able to afford everything I need without difficulty and can easily pay for my application	
I have to go without some items, or I have had to use my savings to pay for my application	
I find it hard to afford everything I need, and I have to borrow money to pay for my application	
I have been pushed into severe debt by paying for my application and I am unable to afford essential living costs as a result	

18. What other impacts have the costs of applying for or renewing your leave to remain had on you or your household?

Tick all that apply.

I struggle to provide for myself / my family	
I struggle with the cost of basic necessities	
I lost my accommodation because I couldn't keep up with my rent or mortgage	
I have to live with friends or family (or sofa surf)	
I have been made street homeless	
I, or members of my households, have to work long hours to be able to pay the fees	
I, or members of my household, have to work multiple jobs to be able to pay the fee	
My children miss out on things compared to their peers / friends	
I feel stressed and anxious	
I can't afford to turn the heating on	
I sometimes skip meals to save money	
Other (please specify)	

19. Thinking back to every time that you have applied for, or renewed, your leave to remain, and considering all the costs involved (i.e. visa fees, the Immigration Health Surcharge, solicitor's fees, appointment fees and any other related costs), how much do you estimate that you have spent in total for all members of your household?

This should be a rough estimate only.

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20. Have the costs associated with applying for leave to remain on the ten-year route ever caused you to decide not to renew your leave to remain, or the leave to remain of anyone else in your household?

By anyone else in your household we are referring to a partner or spouse, children in your care aged under 18 and adult dependents (e.g. a parent, grandparent, adult sibling or adult child for whom you provide personal care).

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

21. Applying for indefinite leave to remain currently costs £2,404. If you were currently eligible to apply, would you be able to afford this fee?

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

22. Have you ever applied for a fee waiver for a visa application?

In some cases, if you cannot afford to pay for an immigration application or if paying the fee would mean you could not meet the needs of your child, you can request a fee waiver. If you qualified for a fee waiver, then the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) would also be waived.

I have applied and been granted a fee waiver for every application I have made	
I have applied and was granted a fee waiver for only a part of my application	
I have applied more than once and sometimes I have been granted a fee waiver and other times I have not	
I have applied but I was denied a fee waiver	
I have never applied for a fee waiver because I did not need to do so	
I have never applied for a fee waiver because I did not know I could	
Other (please specify)	

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

23. Did you get support from a solicitor or immigration advisor to make your application(s) for leave to remain?

Yes	
No	
I received support for some applications, but not for all	

24. If you answered no or not for all, why did you not receive support from a solicitor or immigration advisor to make your application?

Please tick all that apply.

The cost of legal advice was too expensive	
There is no legal advice available locally to me	
I didn't know who to ask or where to go for support	
I asked for support, but I was told that the legal advisor and/or the organisation did not have capacity to support me	
I received support from other people, i.e. family or friends	
Other (please specify)	

REGULAR RENEWALS

WORK

25. Regarding your current employment status, which of the following best describes you?

Working (full time)	
Working (part time)	
Self-employed	
Unemployed and seeking work	
In education or training	
At home caring for family members	
Unable to work because of disability or illness	
Retired from paid work	
Not in paid work for some other reason	

26. What is your current, or most recent, occupation?

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27. How has the need to apply for or extend your limited leave to remain every 2.5 years affected your experiences of work?

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement.

	Completely disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Completely agree	Don't know	Not applicable
Applying to renew my LLR every 2.5 years has had a negative impact on my experiences of work							

28. In relation to work, have you experienced any of the following as a result of having to apply for or extend your limited leave to remain every 2.5 years?

Tick all that apply.

It has made it harder for me to find a job	
It has made it harder for me to keep my job	
I've found it hard to find a permanent job	
I've found it hard to find a job with good working conditions	
I've had to accept a job that pays a low wage	
I've been forced to do work by someone else that I did not want to do	
My employer has withheld payment for work	
I've worked in dangerous conditions	
None of these apply to me	
Other (please specify)	

APPLICATION DELAYS

29. Thinking of the last time you applied for or renewed your limited leave to remain, how long did you wait for the Home Office to make a decision on your application?

Select one option

Less than 6 months	
6-12 months	
12 months or longer	

30. What impact has waiting for the Home Office to make a decision on your application had on you?

Tick all that apply

It has not had any impact	
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I had to leave my job	
I was suspended from work	
I couldn't find a job	
I had to leave my accommodation	
I found it hard to rent accommodation	
I felt stressed and anxious	
My mental health has suffered	
My physical health has suffered	
I have become more isolated	
Other (please specify)	

YOUR EXPERIENCES

CHILDREN

29. How has the uncertainty of the ten-year route affected your children?

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Completely disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Completely agree	Don't know	Not applicable
My children's health has suffered							
My children's wellbeing and mental health has suffered							
My children's education has been negatively affected							
I think my children's prospects for the future have been harmed							

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

30. To what extent do you feel your experiences of the ten-year route have had an impact on your physical health and general wellbeing?

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Note: 'Wellbeing' refers to how satisfied you are with your life, your day-to-day emotional experiences and your general sense of mental wellbeing.

	Completely disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Completely agree	Don't know	Not applicable
My physical health has been negatively affected by the ten-year route							

My wellbeing (or mental health) has been negatively impacted by the ten-year route							
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BELONGING

31. Thinking about the future, which of the following statements is the most accurate for you?

I feel that I am fully settled here despite my immigration status	
I feel that my immigration status stops me from feeling properly at home or settled in the UK	
I feel completely insecure here in the UK because of my immigration status	
Other (please specify)	
Don't know	

32. Thinking about your experiences with the 10-year route, which of the following has the biggest negative impact on your life?

Please select up to two options.

The high cost of application fees	
Having no access to benefits (public funds)	
The complicated application process	
The need to constantly reapply for leave to remain and the delays that often occur when making an application	
Don't know	
Other (please specify)	

33. Thinking about your experiences with the 10-year route, which of the following would make the biggest positive difference to your life?

Please tick up to three options that would make the most positive difference to your life.

A shorter period of time before being able to apply for settlement (e.g. 5 years instead of 10 years)	
Fewer applications	
Easier access to benefits if I need them	
Lower fees	
More help with the application process	
Don't know	
Other (please specify)	

34. Is there anything else about your experiences on the ten-year route to settlement that you would like to tell us about? If so, please use the text box below to share your thoughts.

ABOUT YOU

We will now ask you some questions about yourself. These are to help us analyse the findings of the survey.

35. What age are you?

16-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
65+	

36. Which of the following best describes your gender?

Man	
Woman	
Trans woman	
Trans man	
Non-binary	
Prefer not to say	
Prefer another term (please specify)	

37. What is your nationality?

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38. How would you describe your ethnic group?

Arab	
Arab	
Asian	
Indian	
Pakistani	
Bangladeshi	
Chinese	

Any other Asian background	
Black, Caribbean or African	
Caribbean	
African	
Any other Black or Caribbean background	
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	
Arab and Asian	
Arab and Black, Caribbean or African	
Arab and White	
Asian and Black, Caribbean or African	
Asian and White	
Black, Caribbean or African and White	
Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background	
White	
White	
Prefer another description (please specify)	
Prefer not to say	

39. Where do you live in the UK?

North-West England	
North-East England	
Yorkshire and Humberside (England)	
West Midlands (England)	
East Midlands (England)	
South-West England	
South-East England	
East England	
London	
Wales	

Scotland	
Northern Ireland	
Other (please specify)	

40. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

By disability we mean a physical or mental health condition that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

Yes	
No	
Don't know	
Prefer not to say	

41. How many people are in your household?

Write the total number of people (including you), the number of children in your care aged under 18, and adult dependents in your care (i.e. a parent, grandparent, adult sibling, or adult child for whom you provide personal care).

Total number of people in your household (including you)	Children in your care aged under 18	Adult dependents in your care

42. How many people in your household have Limited Leave to Remain (LLR)?

Total number of people in your household (including you) with LLR	Children in your care aged under 18 with LLR	Adult dependents in your care with LLR

43. If you have children in your care aged under 18, do one or more of them have British Citizenship?

Yes	
No	
An application is currently being processed	
Don't know	

SHOPPING VOUCHER

We appreciate you taking the time to share your experiences with us and would like to send you a £10 gift voucher as a thank you.

Gift vouchers are sent via email, so please let us know the best email address to send this to. You can either share your own email address or if you prefer you can write the address of someone you trust (such as a support worker), and they can forward the email with the gift voucher to you. Make sure you discuss this with them first.

Please note, we will only use the email address that you provide to send you the gift voucher and this will not be shared with anyone outside of IPPR.

Email address	
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How would you like to receive the £10 gift voucher? Select one option.

ASDA shopping voucher	
Morrisons shopping voucher	
Sainsbury's shopping voucher	
Tesco shopping voucher	
Love2Shop shopping voucher	

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHARING MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES OF THE TEN-YEAR ROUTE?

We would like to interview some people about their experiences of the ten-year route in more depth. If you would be interested to talk to a researcher, please leave your contact details below and we will be in touch with you.

We can provide an interpreter if this would help you. Your contribution would be strictly confidential and would have no impact on any service you receive or on your immigration status.

We hope this is an opportunity to share your experiences in your own words, but there is no obligation to take part in an interview.

Thank you very much for your time.

Name	
Mobile phone number	
Email Address	
Name of organisation supporting you or that referred you (if applicable)	
Preferred/first language	