



## **‘Change of Conditions’ (CoC) applications**

It is possible to apply to the Home Office to remove the NRPF condition from a person’s leave to remain. If the application is successful and you meet the other relevant eligibility criteria, you will be able to access all welfare benefits and housing assistance for the remaining period of your leave. You can apply for a CoC if you have permission to stay on the basis of your family or private life or hold a British National (Overseas) (BNO) visa. You may also be able to apply if you have another type of visa but this is more complex (see below).

You will need to demonstrate that you are destitute or at risk of becoming destitute. Alternatively, you can demonstrate there are reasons related to the welfare of your child(ren) or other exceptional circumstances affecting their income or expenditure (e.g. a disability or health condition).

There is no fee to make this application and many people decide to submit the application independently. Please note, there is also no legal aid available, and it can be difficult to find solicitors able to help with the application. Supporting people to make these applications constitutes immigration advice. As such, it is an activity regulated by the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner and should only be undertaken by registered immigration advisers.

In 2024, following a court judgement in 2023,<sup>1</sup> the Home Office updated its guidance to clarify that people with any type of visa may be able to apply for a CoC. The updated guidance states, however, that there must be “particularly compelling circumstances” for a change of conditions to be granted for those on other visas (e.g. a student/ skilled worker/ graduate visa) and makes clear that there is a risk of visa cancellation in these cases.<sup>2</sup> You can contact The Unity Project for further advice.

[The Unity Project](#) assists people to make change of conditions applications. More information and guidance for individuals is available [here](#).

Government guidance and further information:

- [CoC application webpage](#) - this includes a link to the application form and some guidance notes)
- [Detailed policy guidance](#) - ‘Access to public funds within family, private life and Hong Kong BN(O) routes’

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<sup>1</sup> *PA & Anor, R (on the application of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2023] EWHC 2476

<sup>2</sup> pp. 17-21 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/access-to-public-funds-within-family-private-life-and-hong-kong-bno-routes>  
[accessed 19/4/24]