

Bulletin 3 April 2009

SDV News and events

A job you might be interested in – Coordinator of SDV

SDV is recruiting for a new coordinator. Details of the position are on the website. Please let anyone you think might be interested know about the job.

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id17.html>

SDV Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 21 April, 6pm

The next AGM will be held on the above date at the Boiler House at the Hidden Gardens. It's important that all SDV members attend.

A new committee will be elected at the AGM so think about putting yourself forward as a committee member.

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id15.htm>

Immigration, asylum and detention news

Parliamentary question: 'average cost of deporting an illegal immigrant'

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of deporting an illegal immigrant. [HL2120]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord West of Spithead): It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the average cost of a removal or deportation because there are many different factors which may or may not be involved in the cost of a case, such as detention costs, travel costs and the cost of escorting the individual in question. We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs, and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost. However, the National Audit Office (NAO) gives a breakdown of the cost of typical asylum cases in 2007-08 in part four of its report The Home Office: Management of Asylum Applications by the UK Border Agency, which was published on 23 January 2009.

The table on page 36 of the report sets out 12 typical profiles and the lower- to upper-end estimate of costs either excluding or including accommodation and support costs. For example, profile four estimates the cost of a case resulting in the enforced removal of a single, undetained adult after he or she has exhausted their appeal rights as being between £7,900 and £17,000 excluding accommodation and support or £12,000 and £25,600 including accommodation and support. This report is available to view at the following website at <http://tinyurl.com/amtv4c> . However, the UK Border Agency aims to ensure removals are effected at the lowest available rate subject to operational needs.

The forgotten people: Plight of the asylum-seekers marooned in France

The revelation that Britain could open its own immigration camp in Calais has caused outrage in some quarters. But as Jerome Taylor discovers, the plight of the asylum-seekers marooned in France cannot be ignored

Read the full story at:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/the-forgotten-people-plight-of-the-asylumseekers-marooned-in-france-1656041.html>

Other news and events

Young Scotland Programme: a free place for someone from SDV?

If anyone who fits the criteria is interested in this, please let Kate know and she will apply for a free place

If you have a young person between the ages of 18 and 32 on your staff or working for your organisation as a volunteer, he or she may be interested in a free place on the forthcoming Young Scotland Programme organised by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland.

The summer course of the Young Scotland Programme will be held at the four-star North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer, arriving Tuesday 2 June, departing Saturday 6 June. All hotel expenses, including food and accommodation for four nights, will be met by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland through our Young Scotland Fund. Only travel to and from the venue is not included in this offer.

For information about the Young Scotland Programme, please click on the link below:

http://www.youngprogramme.org/ysp_brochureJUNE09.pdf

Charity Bike Rides and Walks for the Charity of Your Choice (that would be SDV!)

Just bike and Just Walk are events organised by Across the Divide who specialise in charity challenges. Find more details at:

<http://www.just-bike.co.uk/charity-bike-ride/>