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CLARIFICATION ON VISA ISSUANCE FOR DOMESTIC HELPERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Philippine Embassy in London has clarified that the United Kingdom has not issued a new policy on the hiring of foreign domestic workers (nannies, cooks, gardeners, chauffeurs and other household workers). The clarification was made in response to inquiries about the alleged new open hiring policy of the United Kingdom.

According to our Philippine Overseas Labor Office in UK, there has been no revision in the visa requirements for domestic workers, as set forth by the United Kingdom

Immigration and Nationality Directorate (Home Office), and they are the following:

1. Must be between 18 to 65 years old;
2. Had been employed by his/her employer for one (1) year or more prior to application for entry clearance;
3. Intends to travel to the United Kingdom with the employer or the latter's spouse or minor child;
4. Intends to work full time as a domestic helper of the employers; and
5. Can maintain and accommodate himself/herself adequately, as certified by the employer, without recourse to public funds.

Subject to compliance with the above requirements, including submission of other supporting documents, such as proof of the employer's capacity to pay the agreed salary, the matter of visa issuance is left entirely to the discretion of the entry clearance officer of the British Embassy.

Upon issuance of the visa, the POLO in London, will provide assistance in the verification and authentication of the employment contract between the employer and the domestic worker, which shall be required for POEA processing.

For the guidance of all concerned.

Adopted: 01 Dec. 2005

(SGD.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator



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