

E.R

Monday, 15 June 2009

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SECTION D RACE RELATIONS ACT 1976 –LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration (Phil Woolas):

I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be nationals of Palestine or Kuwait submit to language analysis.

Language analysis carried out for some Somali asylum applicants demonstrates that significant proportions of those tested have claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that is not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. We are aware that a significant proportion of Palestinian and Kuwaiti claims also are from other nationalities. This new authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual Palestinian and Kuwaiti cases, and to ascertain the extent of abuse within these nationalities.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for eleven months (until April 2010), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing a copy of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.