

Fee Waivers

If you need to apply for further leave to remain (FLR) but you can't afford to pay the fee, you may be able to apply for a **fee waiver**. This means that you will not have to pay the fee or the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Which applications?

- You can only apply for a fee waiver for **further leave to remain** applications, not for settlement, citizenship or any other application.
- You can only apply if you are on the 10 year route or if your partner is in receipt of DLA or PIP.
- If you are on the 5 year route and apply for a fee waiver, you will be moved onto the 10 year route.
- If you are eligible for settlement (e.g. after two periods of leave) but cannot afford the fee, you have to make a further leave to remain application with a fee waiver.

Can I apply?

The Home Office says you can apply for a fee waiver if “you are destitute or may become destitute as a result of paying the fee”. This usually means that you don't have enough money to pay for accommodation and daily living expenses, or would not have enough money if you had to pay the fee.

What you need to do:

- Apply for a fee waiver before your leave expires
- Receive a decision on your fee waiver
- If your fee waiver is accepted you will receive a code to use in your FLR application and you must apply for further leave to remain (FLR) within 10 working days of the decision
- If your fee waiver is refused, you will need to pay for your FLR application within 10 working days of the decision.

The date you submit the fee waiver request is taken as the date of your leave to remain application, so you will still be in the UK legally while you are waiting for the decisions on your fee waiver and on your FLR application. This is known as “Section 3C leave” which means you still have the right to live and work in the UK until your application is decided.

What CLEAR can do:

CLEAR immigration advisers are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) at Level 1. This is the lowest level, and means we are only legally allowed to help with some applications.

We **are able** to give advice and assistance with:

- fee waiver applications
- further leave to remain applications where your partner is receiving DLA or PIP
- further leave to remain applications without a fee waiver on the 5 year route

We **are not able** to give advice on:

- further leave to remain applications on the 10 year route



If we are not able to help with your application, we will try to refer your case to the Citizens Advice Bureau, which has a OISC Level 2 adviser. If they are unable to help, you could complete your own application or pay a solicitor to help.

If you complete your own application, we are able to check that the form is completed correctly, but we cannot give advice about the validity of your application.

What is needed?

For the fee waiver application you will need to provide documents to prove your income and expenses and we will need to ask you lots of questions about your finances. Typically, we will ask for:

- identity documents for you and your partner
- details of all family members
- pay slips or recent business accounts
- evidence of benefits
- bank statements for the last six months for all bank accounts held by family members
- an explanation of all large payments in or out of your accounts
- tenancy agreement
- council tax bill
- water bill
- electricity and gas bills (or receipts for key meter top-up)
- details of phone, TV, internet payments
- details of car expenses