



'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 generally only apply if you have permission to stay on the basis of your family or private life or hold a British National (Overseas) (BNO) visa.¹

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).

Previously, if you were on the '5-year route to settlement' and applied for a COC, the Home Office could move you to the '10-year route to settlement' when they removed the NRPF condition. However, this has changed, and the guidance now states: "if you currently have permission to stay under the 5 year partner or parent route and you are granted access to public funds, you will remain on the 5 year route."²

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. The Unity Project assists people to make change of conditions applications: <https://www.unity-project.org.uk/>

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'

¹ NB - Individuals on other types of visas *may* also be able to apply. You can contact The Unity Project for more information and advice.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-change-of-conditions-of-leave-to-allow-access-to-public-funds-if-your-circumstances-change/guidance-on-applying-to-change-your-permission>