EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE IMMIGRATION (PASSENGER TRANSIT VISA) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2014

2014 No. 1513

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Home Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

2.1 This Order removes the requirement for nationals and citizens of Colombia to hold a transit visa if they want to pass through the United Kingdom without entering whilst transiting to another country.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Context

4.1 The Immigration (Passenger Transit Visa) Order 2003 requires certain passengers (including Colombian nationals and citizens) to hold a transit visa to pass through the United Kingdom without entering whilst transiting to another country. This Order is necessary to amend the Schedule to the 2003 Order and lift the restriction on Colombian nationals.

5. Territorial Extent and Application

5.1 This instrument applies to all of the United Kingdom.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

- What is being done and why

7.1 The direct airside transit visa (DATV) requirement on Colombian citizens and nationals was first introduced on 25 May 2000 in response to concerns about abuse of our transit system. The Home Office keeps the UK's visa requirements under constant review and it has been decided that the risk of abuse from Colombian citizens and nationals in relation to airside transit is now sufficiently reduced to allow this requirement to be lifted. It is assessed that this change should not result in a significant increase in asylum claims.

Evidence also suggested that a DATV lift on Colombia would contribute to the success of a new direct flight between London and Bogota and thereby assist the UK's growth agenda.

7.2 On the basis of the above assessment, the Home Office has decided to remove the DATV requirement on citizens and nationals of Colombia. Therefore, they will no longer require a visa to pass through the UK without entering whilst transiting to another country.

- Consolidation

7.3 As the amendment to the 2003 Order is very small, consolidation is not thought to be appropriate on this occasion.

8. Consultation outcome

8.1 There has been no public consultation.

9. Guidance

9.1 This change will be reflected in guidance on the gov.uk website and on UK embassies' local websites. Relevant operational partners and carriers will be informed.

10. Impact

10.1 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is considered minimal and indirect.

10.2 The impact on the public sector is not significant.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

12. Monitoring & review

12.1 The Home Office regularly reviews the UK's visa regime.

13. Contact

Suzanne Barnes at the Home Office Tel: 02070354365 or email: Suzanne.Barnes@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.