





Since leaving the European Union, the UK has been transforming its immigration system from one based on free movement for people from certain countries to one based on the skills that people from any country can contribute to the UK economy. In 2021 we implemented a new flagship Points Based System for immigration, which is transforming the ways in which migrants come to the UK to live, study and work. As the UK builds back from the COVID-19 pandemic, its immigration system will aim to support the domestic labour market by attracting the most highly qualified people from overseas, supported by simplified application and sponsorship processes. Bespoke immigration routes will also enable more students, scientists, academics, investors, and entrepreneurs to come to the UK.

A central part of the Points Based System is the Skilled Worker Route<sup>1</sup>, under which we have welcomed tens of thousands of people into areas of shortage for the UK economy, supporting post-pandemic economic recovery. This includes scientists, plumbers, chefs, doctors, nurses, engineers, architects, butchers, and senior care workers. This diversity in business brings a huge variety of experience and knowledge, helping to boost performance, increase productivity, bring a unique cultural outlook, and complement the skills and knowledge of staff. The route is not capped in numbers and provides a route to permanent settlement in the United Kingdom.

Figures compiled in February 2022 show that the number of visas issued across work and study routes is now exceeding pre-pandemic levels - 677,000 in 2021. Migrants will need to meet mandatory criteria – a job offer from an approved sponsor, a job offer at the appropriate skills level, English language skills and criminality checks. There is a salary requirement – if an applicant earns more than the going rate for a particular occupation or more than the general salary threshold, and meets all other relevant conditions, they would be able to enter the UK. Tradeable points are given for salary, a job in a specific shortage and educational qualifications.

Other programmes targeted at specific groups complement the Skilled Worker Route:

Global Talent - the Global Talent route is for people aged 18 or over in the field of science, engineering, humanities, medicine, digital technology or arts and culture who can show they have exceptional talent or exceptional promise.

Innovator - the Innovator route is for a person seeking to establish a business in the UK based on an innovative, viable and scalable business idea they have generated, or to which they have significantly contributed. The application must be supported by an endorsing body.

Health and care visa - allows medical professionals to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with the NHS, an NHS supplier or in adult social care.

Student route - improves on the previous Tier 4 route, making it simpler and more streamlined, creating clearer pathways for students, and ensuring the UK remains competitive in a changing global education market.

Graduate route - provides international students with the opportunity to stay in the UK to work or look for work after they graduate.

British National (Overseas) route - on 31 January 2021, the UK launched a bespoke immigration route for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders and their eligible family members allowing them to come to the UK to live, study and work on a pathway to citizenship. The route was introduced following China's passing of the National Security Law in Hong Kong and reflects the UK's historic and moral commitment to those people of Hong

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EU partners. Additionally, we will deploy our people and our ODA to: produce better migration data; drive better migration management through the Global Compact for Migration (GCM); provide critical humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants; and harness the benefits of legal labour migration in priority regions and sectors for the UK.

In the longer term, FCDO is developing evidence-based migration programming, which aims to ensure future flows are safe, orderly and regular, and maximise development benefits. We continue to invest heavily in countries upstream, for instance through our significant support in Syria and the region.

FCDO's broader aid programmes seek to strengthen stability and security, which in turn helps to tackle some of the drivers of displacement. FCDO is also working to address the drivers of conflict, instability and lack of economic opportunities in key origin countries of migration. By improving education, creating jobs and livelihoods and facilitating labour mobility we are giving people more opportunities



Regular migrants receive proof of their legal identity to ensure they are able to access all relevant

business model of these groups and build capacity of local law enforcement agencies to tackle the threat posed by organised crime groups (OCGs) engaged in OIC and reduce the space in which they operate. The Taskforce's activity has led to significant operational success.



participants to date, of whom 49 still remain in the pilot. This two-year pilot will conclude in June 2022.

The evaluations of both pilots will be published. The report for Action Access<sup>5</sup>, in which the Home Office accepted all of the report's recommendations, was published on 24 January 2022. The report for pilot 2 is expected for publication toward the end of 2022 following pilot closure in summer 2022. The evaluation of both these pilots will inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention. Further to this, the Community Engagement Pilot team has been working with the UN Network on Migration to share the UK experience on alternatives to detention with other countries.

### Efforts to facilitate migrants' integration and their contribution to host country

The UK believes in ensuring regular migration around the world is economically and socially beneficial to the migrant, the origin and the destination countries (objective 19)

We have developed a range of international programmes in this area, focussed on supporting interventions in the financial services and digital economy sectors. These are fundamental to improving flows and reducing costs associated with remittances, since the high costs involved in money transfers along remittance corridors can significantly reduce the benefits of migration, especially for poor households in origin countries. The UK-funded Financial Sector Deepening Africa (FSDA) programme is supporting digital transformation in FinTech, remittances, trade finance, and regulating for innovation to drive structural economic development and protect the vulnerable. FSDA's investment and support to MFS Africa reduced the cost of remittances from 6% in 2018 to 4.25% for their client base in 2021. £1.1 billion was transferred for 7 million clients during this period.

The UK recognises the importance of remittances (objective 20)

Since the UK-Swiss Call to Action in 2020 that highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on remittances, remittances have held up better than expected with only a 1.6% decline in 2020 and growth of 7.6% in 2021. Over 40 countries joined the Call to Action and took actions that improved access to remittances and financial services.

The UK provides access to basic services for migrants in line with their migration status (objective 15)

The ability to access basic services for migrants coming to the UK will depend on their immigration status. Those with status such as Indefinite Permission to Stay or Settled Status can access healthcare and apply for benefits. Newly arrived migrants are generally expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without accessing UK's welfare system. Those migrants classed as having No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) must meet a minimum income threshold in order to get a visa, demonstrating that they can support themselves and their dependants financially. Migrants with NRPF who have made<sup>2</sup>. Migrants with NRPF who have made<sup>2</sup>. Migrants with NRPF who have made<sup>2</sup>.

sick pay, discretionary hardship payment for those who have to self-isolate and some contribution-based benefits continue to be available to migrants with NRPF.

Primary care services, including GP consultations are free of charge to all, as is Accident and Emergency care, however temporary and unlawful migrants may be charged for secondary care (hospital and specialists care services). Urgent treatment is never withheld, regardless of whether charges may apply. We also have exemptions in place to protect public health and the most vulnerable patients. Throughout COVID-19, regardless of status migrants were able to access free testing and COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters in the UK. No immigration checks or NHS numbers are needed when accessing the vaccine in order to enable access for all. The UK is aware of the important role that

Albania through targeted and strategic communications and community driven solutions such as education, training, and alternative employment.

All migrants in the UK are protected under UK hate crime laws (Objective 17).

All forms of hate crime are unacceptable, and the UK has a robust legislative framework to respond. For instance, racial hate crime provisions cover race, colour, nationality (including citizenship) and ethnic or national origins. We are clear that those who commit hateful attacks should feel the full force of the law.

The UK Hate Crime Action Plan (Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime) was published in 2016 and refreshed in October 2018. The Hate Crime Action Plan improved the response to all forms of hate crime.

Achievements include providing over 320 grants funding security measures at places of worship across the country in addition to funding for vulnerable faith institutions; funding innovative projects to tackle hate; working with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to produce important guides for victims of hate crime; requiring police forces to disaggregate hate crime data by faith; commissioning the police inspectorate to undertake a thematic report into police effectiveness in responding to hate crime, as well as engaging directly with over 17,000 young people to challenge hatred and prejudice. Additionally, from April 2021, the Home Office began to collect ethnicity of victim data for hate crimes to establish a fuller picture of which communities have been targeted.

Where appropriate, we produce tailored responses to ensure migrants understand their rights, which includes protection from hate crime. For example, the Government recently developed a handbook for Afghan refugees which provided information on what to do if they are a victim of hate crime.

Cooperation with other nations is a theme running through our entire migration approach (Objective 23).

The UK combines its diplomatic, development and stabilisation expertise with well-targeted programmes (current and planned) and multilateral contributions. Investment includes new embassies in Eswatini and the Bahamas, and programmes that help to address the major upstream drivers of migration, including gender inequality, food insecurity, population growth, lack of economic development, and an increasing vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

The UK continues to engage regularly with countries of origin and transit to support safer, more orderly and regular migration. This includes a range of programmatic interventions to support better migration management, border security and detection of victims of trafficking. In addition, the UK regularly engages with a range of European partners on irregular migration, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to support delivery of the 'whole of route' approach. This involves concerted, co-ordinated interventions at all stages of a migrant's journey that reduce irregular migration, tackle criminality and/or trafficking, and protect the vulnerable.

## Section 4: Next Steps

The UK remains committed to the Global Compact for Migration and will continue to take into account both its objectives and guiding principles through our policy, programming and advocacy work.

The UK is committed to tackling illegal routes and break the business model of smuggling gangs and to promote and encourage safe, orderly and legal routes to the UK. The implementation of the new Nationality and Borders Act will disincentivise individuals making dangerous journeys across the English Channel and encourage people to claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

The implementation of the new Points Based System has transformed the ways in which migrants come to the UK to live, study and work. We have welcomed tens of thousands of people in areas of shortage for the UK economy, based on their skills through our new immigration system. This enables the UK to continue to harness the benefits of regular migration. The UK also continues to maintain its commitment to providing protection to those who need it, especially in response to the Afghanistan and Ukraine crises, where the UK has opened resettlement schemes to provide safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in safety. The UK continues to be a proud and active supporter of GCM implementation around the world.