

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

The cap on tier two visas for NHS staff

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me regarding exempting NHS staff from the cap on tier two visas.

The NHS has never busier without the funds it needs to meet growing demand placing unprecedented pressure on the NHS. The pressures on our NHS have further been exacerbated by worsening staff shortages and the Government's policy towards skilled immigrants which has resulted in international doctors and nurses being denied visas to fill vacancies in our NHS.

These visa restrictions have not worked in the best interests of NHS patients and Labour have repeatedly called on the Government to put patients first by taking NHS workers out of the tier 2 visa system so that hospitals can get the right numbers of staff in place. The Government have finally listened to our concerns and have announced plans to lift the visa cap for doctors and nurses.

Overseas NHS staff make an invaluable contribution to our health service and the Government's announcement will be welcome relief to NHS staff and patients, who have witnessed first hand the damage that this policy has caused. However, this alone will not solve the crisis in our NHS. The challenges facing the NHS are ever-mounting and have only been exacerbated by the policies of the current Government. Austerity for the NHS has meant the biggest financial squeeze in its history. The additional money which Theresa May has recently announced both falls short of what is needed and is unclear of how it will be paid for. We need a different approach to our NHS to provide staff with the resources to deliver the standards that patient deserve, address the crisis in social care and provide patients the modern, well-resourced services they need for the 21st century.

Thanks again for everyone who has contacted me about the visa cap on NHS staff.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

Richard Burden MP
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