

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

### **IMMIGRATION AND NHS**

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time out to contact me regarding their concerns about immigration and the NHS post-Brexit.

Brexit poses a very real threat to an NHS which is already understaffed and underfunded. Doctors, nurses, and midwives from other European countries make a valuable and important contribution to our health service. Yet with weeks to go before the UK is due to leave the EU, many of the NHS's European staff are wondering if they will have to leave the UK due to persistent uncertainty about their future status. Without a serious and credible solution by the Government, Brexit will have a profound impact on NHS staffing levels. The concern over the impact on staffing is so great, that University Hospital Birmingham Trust has taken the extraordinary step of reiterating their commitment to the 1,200 EU staff who work there and even offering to pay their settled status application fees. All of this because of the absence of Government direction and reassurance.

Labour has consistently opposed the Government's reckless approach to these Brexit negotiations. We recognise the important contribution the EU nationals make to all aspects of British society including the NHS, and have been pressing the Government time and time again to guarantee existing residency rights for EU nationals already living in Britain. That work by Labour has pushed the Prime Minister to not only extending the guarantee, but then subsequently reducing the application fee from £65 to zero.

Last week, the Labour Party supported what has been called the Costa Amendment, which was passed in the Commons with wide cross-party support. The amendment calls on the Prime Minister to seek a joint EU-UK commitment to adopt the provisions in the Withdrawal Agreement on the rights of EU citizens in the UK and those of UK citizens in the EU, regardless of the outcome of negotiations on other aspects of the Withdrawal Agreement. There is much more work yet to be done and I will be working closely with other Labour MPs to ensure Brexit doesn't become an excuse to reduce or remove people's rights.

Labour Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield  
[www.richardburden.com](http://www.richardburden.com) – 0207 219 2318 – [burdenr@parliament.uk](mailto:burdenr@parliament.uk)

Thanks again to everyone who has contacted me on this issue. Please do continue to let me know your thoughts on these and other issues.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden', with a stylized, cursive script.

Richard Burden MP  
Birmingham Northfield