



## BRIEFING PAPER

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# Post-Brexit immigration system proposals: responses from stakeholders

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## Summary

This reading list presents a selected snapshot of responses to the [February 2020 Government policy statement](#) on a new points-based system for immigration.

Most responses have focussed on the proposals for sponsored skilled worker visas (known as the Tier 2 (General) visa category in the current points-based system).

There are some recurring themes. Some aspects of the proposals have been broadly welcomed, notably:

- The abolition of the resident labour market test.
- The lowering of the skills and salary thresholds.
- The suspension of the 'cap' on the number of work visas available.

However, many stakeholders have caveated their responses by highlighting concerns about:

- The absence of a transitional visa category to assist employers to adapt to the ending of EU free movement law.
- The particular effect on sectors with many low-paid or low-skilled jobs, or with a large proportion of EU workers (e.g. social care, hospitality, tourism, construction).
- The continued use of national salary thresholds without scope for regional variations.
- The costs and administrative burdens associated with sponsoring work visas, and the particular impact on smaller employers.
- The ambitious timetable for implementation of the new system.

# 1. Media coverage, commentary, etc.

## 1.1 Press

### **The Economist**

Points mean prizes: Britain's post-Brexit immigration rules worry business, *The Economist*, 20 February 2020

### **Financial Times**

[Visa changes to hit sectors in need of low-skilled labour](#), 19 February 2020

[Outer London most exposed to new immigration rules](#), 25 February 2020

### **The Guardian**

[The new UK immigration rules tell employers to suck it up](#), 18 February 2020

[UK immigration plans prompt fresh calls for 'Scottish visa'](#), 19 February 2020

[Immigration rules post-Brexit could fuel modern slavery, say charities](#), *The Guardian*, 21 February 2020

## 1.2 Expert commentary, Blogs, etc.

### **Cosmopolis Blog**

[A Mortification of the Flesh: UK Immigration Policy for EU Citizens](#), 24 February 2020

### **Free Movement Blog**

[Government abandons "Australia-style" immigration system](#), 19 February 2020

[How much does it cost to sponsor someone for a UK work visa?](#), 21 February 2020

### **Kingsley Napley**

[Pointless points based posturing in Government's new immigration policy proposals](#), Blog, 19 February 2020

[Why employers shouldn't expect any new immigration options from a Canada-style trade deal](#), Blog, 27 February 2020

### **UK in a Changing Europe**

[What next for immigration, post-Brexit?](#), Prof Jonathan Portes, 19 February 2020

## 2. Devolved administrations<sup>1</sup>

### **Convention of Scottish Local Authorities**

[COSLA response to announcement on new points-based immigration system](#), COSLA, 19 February 2020

### **Scottish Chambers of Commerce**

[SCC comments on UK Government proposals for new UK immigration system](#), SCC, 19 February 2020

### **Scottish Government**

[Response to UK Government's immigration proposals](#), Scottish Government, 19 February 2020

### **London Chamber of Commerce**

[LCCI react to the Government's new immigration policy](#), LCCI, 19 February 2020

### **London First**

[Lower salary threshold welcome, but businesses need time to adapt](#), London First, 19 February 2020

[Good migrations: how to get the balance right](#), London First, 19 February 2020 [Blog]

### **LGA**

[LGA responds to immigration points-based system announcement](#), LGA, 18 February 2020

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<sup>1</sup> See also listings under 'sector-specific' heading.

## 3. Civil society organisations<sup>2</sup>

### 3.1 Trade Unions

#### **Prospect**

[Immigration plans will make Britain smaller, poorer and less successful](#), Prospect, 19 February 2020

#### **Unite**

[Unite statement on Government's immigration proposals](#), Unite, 19 February 2020

### 3.2 Think-tanks, lobby groups, etc.

#### **Adam Smith Institute**

[ASI comments on new immigration system proposals](#), Adam Smith Institute, 19 February 2020

#### **Institute of Economic Affairs**

[IEA responds to Government's post-Brexit immigration proposals](#), IEA, 19 February 2020

#### **Institute for Public Policy Research**

[Immigration plans analysis: Two thirds of current EU migrants in health and care sector would have been found ineligible](#), IPPR, 19 February 2020

#### **Migration Observatory**

[EU migration remains at post-referendum lows and non-EU migration continues to rise, while impacts of post-Brexit policies on migration remain uncertain](#), Migration Observatory, 27 February 2020

#### **Migration Watch UK**

[Government's Post-Brexit immigration plan](#), Migration Watch UK, 19 February 2020

#### **NCVO**

[The new immigration system: What it is and what it means](#), NCVO, 25 February 2020

#### **Refugee, Asylum and Migration Policy Project**

[RAMP Project responds to the Government's immigration plans](#), RAMP Project (undated)

#### **Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce**

[Can the Government's new immigration policy work?](#), RSA, 20 February 2020

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<sup>2</sup> See also listings under 'sector-specific' heading.

## 4. Business, employers, representative bodies

### **Association of Labour Providers**

[Immigration Policy Statement from the ALP](#), ALP, 26 February 2020

### **British Chambers of Commerce**

[BCC comments on proposals for new UK immigration system](#), BCC, 18 February 2020

### **CBI**

[CBI responds to new UK immigration system](#), CBI, 18 February 2020

### **Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development**

[Awareness, cost and bureaucracy of new immigration system should be key concern](#), CIPD, 19 February 2020

### **Federation of Small Businesses**

[Migration policy must work for NI, say small firms](#), FSB, 19 February 2020

[FSB Scotland reacts to new immigration plans](#), FSB, 19 February 2020

[Small firms say points-based immigration system can work if costs kept down and right visas in place](#), FSB, 24 February 2020

### **IPSE (Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed)**

[New immigration rules fail to make decent provision for the self-employed - IPSE](#), IPSE, 19 February 2020 [Politics Home]

### **Recruitment and Employment Confederation**

[New immigration policy threatens to cut businesses off from vital skills](#), REC, 19 February 2020

### **Scottish Chambers of Commerce**

[SCC comments on UK Government proposals for new UK immigration system](#), SCC, 19 February 2020

## 5. Sector-specific

### 5.1 Agriculture, farming, food processing

#### **British Poultry Council**

[Home Office immigration proposals to have a crippling effect on British food security](#), British Poultry Council, 19 February 2020

#### **British Veterinary Association**

[New immigration rules leave a big question mark for vets, says BVA](#), British Veterinary Association, 19 February 2020 [Politics Home]

#### **Food and Drink Federation**

[Food and Drink Federation responds to the publication of the Home Office's plans for immigration](#), Food and Drink Federation, 19 February 2020

#### **National Farmers' Union**

[NFU responds to immigration policy](#), NFU, 18 February 2020

#### **National Farmers' Union Scotland**

[Food and Farming Future put at Risk by Migration Proposals](#), NFU Scotland, 19 February 2020

#### **National Pig Association**

[Government unveils new immigration policy](#), National Pig Association, 19 February 2020

#### **Scottish Seafood Association**

[SSA raises serious concerns over immigration system with government](#), SSA, (undated)

#### **Ulster Farmers' Union**

[UFU raises concerns regarding points-based immigration system and seasonal agricultural workers scheme](#), UFU, 20 February 2020

### 5.2 Construction

#### **Chartered Institute of Building**

[CIOB responds to UK government's announcement about a new points-based immigration system](#), CIOB, 19 February 2020

#### **Construction Industry Training Board**

[CITB comment on Home Office migration plan](#), CITB, 19 February 2020

#### **Federation of Master Builders**

[Immigration restrictions threaten construction delivery](#), FMB, 19 February 2020

#### **National Federation of Builders**



[Points based immigration needs refinement](#), NFB, 19 February 2020

## 5.3 Creative arts and entertainment

### **Creative Industries Federation**

[The Federation responds to today's Immigration policy statement](#),  
Creative Industries Federation, 19 February 2020

### **Incorporated Society of Musicians**

[Government announces new UK points-based immigration system](#), ISM,  
19 February 2020

### **UK Music**

[Comment: How to maintain the UK industry's Global status post-Brexit](#),  
IQ Magazine, 21 February 2020

### **UK Screen Alliance**

[UK Screen Alliance responds to new points-based immigration system](#),  
UK Screen Alliance, 19 February 2020

## 5.4 Healthcare, residential and social care

### **Demos**

[Care work is undervalued and underfunded. But this has nothing to do with immigration](#), Demos, 25 February 2020

### **Kingsley Napley**

[Getting personal – Carer shortages under the “new” points based immigration system](#), Blog, 25 February 2020

### **NHS Confederation and NHS Employers**

[Immigration announcement provides no obvious solution for social care](#),  
NHS Confederation, 19 February 2020

### **Nuffield Trust**

[Nuffield Trust response to new UK points-based immigration system](#),  
Nuffield Trust, 19 February 2020

### **Royal College of Nursing**

[Royal College of Nursing comments on new UK points based immigration system](#), RCN, 18 February 2020

### **Royal Osteoporosis Society**

[The Royal Osteoporosis Society responds to the Government's plan to scrap visas for low-skilled workers](#), Royal Osteoporosis Society,  
19 February 2020 [Politics Home]

### **Scottish Care**

## 10 Post-Brexit immigration system proposals: responses from stakeholders

[Latest blog from our National Director: Immigration Workforce](#), Scottish Care, 25 February 2020

[Scottish Care issues open letter to politicians on social care immigration](#), Scottish Care, 21 February 2020

[Scottish Care speaks out on new immigration plans](#), Scottish Care, 19 February 2020

### **UNISON**

[Immigration plans 'spell disaster for care sector' says UNISON](#), UNISON, 19 February 2020

### **Welsh NHS Confederation**

[The key issues for health and social care organisations as the UK leaves the European Union](#), Welsh NHS Confederation, February 2020

## 5.5 Logistics, retail

### **British Retail Consortium**

[Future immigration system fails to meet needs of supply chains](#), 19 February 2020

### **Freight Transport Association**

[FTA comments on effects of new immigration proposals on Scotland](#), FTA, 21 February 2020

### **Road Haulage Association**

[Government short-sightedness is putting Britain's supply chain at risk, says RHA](#), RHA, 19 February 2020

## 5.6 Travel, tourism and hospitality

### **ABTA**

[ABTA statement following the Government announcing its new immigration policy position](#), ABTA, 20 February 2020

### **Hospitality Professionals' Association**

Relocate Global, [The new UK points-based immigration system: what costs will employers face?](#), 19 February 2020

### **UK Hospitality**

[Government's immigration proposals fail to meet their own objectives](#), UK Hospitality, 19 February 2020

## 5.7 Other

### **Education**

### **Russell Group**

[How immigration proposals affect universities](#), Russell Group, 19 February 2020

### **Universities Scotland**

[Universities Scotland comments on new points-based immigration system](#), 19 February 2020

### **Universities UK**

[Universities UK's response to announcement on new points-based immigration system](#), Universities UK, 19 February 2020

## **IT, technology**

### **BCS The Chartered Institute for IT**

[A points-based immigration system should include a Skills Competency Framework to attract IT professionals into the UK](#), BCS The Chartered Institute for IT, 19 February 2020

### **techUK**

[The UK's Points-Based Immigration System](#), Tech UK, 19 February 2020

## **Manufacturing**

### **Make UK**

[What does the new immigration system mean for manufacturers?](#) Make UK, 19 February 2020

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