



British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin

06/12/2023

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

Dear Home Secretary,

Ref: Plans announced by the UK Government to cut net migration on 4 December 2023

I am writing to you following your announcement earlier this week laying out the UK Government's plan to reduce migration levels and curb abuse of the immigration system.

It was very concerning and distressing to our members to read about the plans to prevent overseas care workers from bringing their dependents to the UK. As you are undoubtedly aware, overseas care workers are an integral part of the UK's health and social care systems and without their tireless efforts, the care provided by the NHS and care homes will suffer. Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 gives them the right not to be separated from their families. Stopping their spouses and children from accompanying them to the UK will have a significant detrimental impact on their mental and physical well-being resulting in a lower quality of care for patients and a reluctance for these skilled workers to either continue working or start new positions in the UK. As you are aware, the NHS and care sectors are faced with a workforce crisis and therefore this announcement gives existing migrant workers and potential recruits very little incentive to continue to work in a system that is already under so much strain.

Furthermore, it is unclear from your announcement whether all healthcare workers including doctors, nurses, and allied healthcare professionals are defined as care workers and would be impacted by these new rules. I urge you to clarify this point at the earliest.

I would also like to ask for further details regarding the plans to increase the annual Immigration Health Surcharge from £624 to £1,035. Historically, this surcharge has not been payable by health and care workers who are eligible for a Health and Care Worker Visa. It is unclear from the announcement on 4 December 2023 whether this will continue to be the case.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding these points at your earliest convenience.

President: Dr Ramesh Mehta, CBE

Secretary: Prof Parag Singhal

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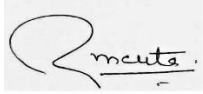


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Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature consists of a large, stylized 'R' followed by the name 'mehta' in a cursive script. There is a small horizontal line under the 'mehta' part.

Dr. Ramesh Mehta CBE
President

CC: The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care