



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**19 January 2016**

### **NHS Providers responds to Migration Advisory Committee report on changes for visa applications from outside Europe**

Responding to the final report by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to the Tier 2 visa route for non European Union (EU) workers, Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy, NHS Providers, said:

“It is vital that providers of NHS care are fully supported to recruit nurses and other clinical staff from abroad to ensure safe and sustainable care for patients.

“The current shortage of nurses that is likely to continue, given the time it takes to train a nurse. Following the Migration Advisory Committee report today, we strongly urge that when considering applications for work visas pay is not the determining factor and an individual’s broader contribution to the UK is taken into account. We know that many NHS organisations are facing recruitment challenges and that overseas recruitment can provide a solution whilst other plans, such as training more nurses are developed. Employers will have tried other options before embarking on overseas recruitment and it’s important that overseas recruitment is not closed off. Nurses must also remain on the Government’s Shortage Occupation List (SoL) with a realistic minimum appropriate salary rate if we are to plug the vacancy gaps and maintain the standard of care that all patients and service users deserve.

“NHS trusts and foundation trusts work incredibly hard to deliver high quality and compassionate care. The Migration Advisory Committee report recommends increasing the minimum salary threshold and suggests that public sector pay needs to rise to reflect that. In considering the recommendations, the Government needs to take into account the impact not only on immigration targets but also on patient care in the NHS.”

Ends

## **Notes to editors**

### **About NHS Providers**

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has more than 90% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
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