

Immigration Updates

February 2024

Skilled Workers

In-line with the National Minimum Wage increase on **01 April 2024**, all sponsored workers over the age of 21, including those sponsored already, will need to be paid at least £22,308 per annum (for a 37.5 hour work week). **This may be higher than the salary given when initially sponsored.**

The Government have announced the following changes to take place on **04 April 2024**:

- The general minimum salary requirement will rise from £26,200 to £38,700 per annum.
 - Those already sponsored **will not** be required to meet this level (even when extending their visas), however, their employer would be expected to increase their salary in-line with ONS data (more information to be released on 14 March 2024).
 - The Shortage of Occupation List is to be removed and along with it the 20% discount on the going rates for occupations on the list. This will be replaced by the new Immigration Skills List, however, there is no update as to when this might be.

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Health & Care

The Government have announced the following changes to take place on **11 March 2024**:

- Care Workers (those on SoC code 6145 and 6146) will no longer be able to sponsor dependent family members.
 - Those already sponsoring dependants are permitted to extend their dependents visas.
 - Those already sponsoring dependants on another visa route or category (for example Graduates) will not be able to sponsor dependents when they apply for their initial Health & Care Visa.
- Care Workers will be exempt from the general minimum salary requirement of £38,700, being introduced on **04 April 2024** (above).

Partners of British Citizens

The Government have announced the following changes to take place on **11 April 2024**:

- The minimum income requirement will rise from £18,600 to £29,000 per annum.
 - At a later date in 2024 (yet to be confirmed) this will rise to £34,500 and in early 2025 to £38,700.
 - Those already in the UK with a Spouse/Partner visa will be exempt from the increased income requirements.