



The Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

diane.abbott.office@parliament.uk

Tel: (020) 7219 4426

Our Ref: [REDACTED]
2nd December 2025

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and for taking the time to set out your circumstances so clearly. I am sorry for the distress that these recent policy announcements have caused you and your wife. I also want to thank you for everything you both contribute to our community. Care workers and health workers keep this country running, and I am grateful that you have chosen to make Hackney your home.

[REDACTED]

You raise a very serious issue. The Government's suggestion that far-reaching changes to the route to Indefinite Leave to Remain could apply retrospectively to people already on established visas is deeply alarming. People should be able to rely on the terms under which they came to the UK. Any attempt to lengthen qualifying periods, impose new evidential requirements, or add behavioural and integration tests part-way through an individual's journey would amount to a betrayal. It would be unjust and destabilising for families who have acted in good faith and built their lives here. It would also undermine trust in the entire immigration system.

More broadly, I am very concerned about the direction of the Government's immigration and asylum policy. Proposals to raise income thresholds for family visas, restrict dependants for key workers, and tighten eligibility for work routes will have far-reaching consequences for families, employers and essential public services. These changes will separate families, intensify shortages in the care sector and other vital areas, and push many people who have lived, worked and paid taxes here for years into new and unnecessary insecurity.

As I set out recently, these reforms reflect a punitive approach that treats migrants, refugees and care workers not as human beings and contributors to society, but as targets for political point scoring. This is reaching for ever more extreme measures instead of investing in functioning asylum processing, safe routes and a fair and humane immigration system. We must instead oppose policies that foster division, drive families into hardship and undermine the rights of people who are already part of our communities.

Please be assured that I have raised these matters in Parliament and that I have also written directly to the Home Secretary to set out my concerns about the retrospective nature of the proposals and the impact on constituents like yourself. I will continue to press the Government to honour the original settlement terms for those already on the Skilled Worker (Health and

Care) route, and to ensure that any policy changes include fair transitional arrangements. I will also continue to challenge immigration reforms that are harmful, unworkable or unjust.

Thank you again for writing to me, and for all that you and your wife contribute through your work in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP
Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington