



**Will Forster MP**  
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Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
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Dear Home Secretary,

**Re: Retroactive Changes to ILR**

We write to you to impress upon you the deep unfairness of your immigration reforms and wish to urge you to reconsider. We are strongly opposed to these blanket retroactive changes to the qualifying criteria for indefinite leave to remain (ILR), which violate the fundamentally British values of fairness and respect.

By moving the goalposts in this way, we are concerned that the Government will do damage to the economy and social fabric of this country.

We believe that these changes are guided by a false premise. Although it is right that settlement should be earned, increasing the minimum residency period to 10 years, or 15 years for care workers, will not increase the level of contribution given by those who come to the UK, but rather will subject them to years of insecurity and additional costs.

Five years of working, paying taxes, and integrating into our communities is already a strong contribution; settlement enables those with the skills the UK needs to commit to a long-term future in our country.

Thousands, already strongly contributing to our society and economy, have made an investment in this country– they have made a long-term financial and social commitment to the UK based on the current arrangements. They are now being made to pay the price of following the rules with longer qualifying periods and additional visa costs.

We are concerned these retroactive changes risk making the UK a less competitive place when it comes to securing the skills our economy needs for the long-term, particularly in key industries such as the life sciences sector. The five-year global talent visa now costs £6,000, twenty times higher than in competitor countries. Cancer Research UK now spends almost £1 million per year on visa costs - money that could instead be invested into their world-leading scientific research.

Whilst we agree on the need for a controlled approach to immigration, these changes will only serve to cause significant disruption to businesses, many of whom are already under significant pressure after the Chancellor's NI increases.



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Introducing additional restrictions will only compound the challenges many businesses face, unsettling workers already in post, and risk talent leaving the UK altogether.

We hope that the Government will commit to an immigration system that is fair and predictable, which treats people with respect, and recognises their contribution to our economy and communities. We therefore urge the Government to rule out the blanket retroactive application of these rules.

Yours Sincerely,

*Will Forster*

**Will Forster MP**  
Member of Parliament for Woking  
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Asylum & Immigration

Co-signatories:

**Daisy Cooper MP**  
Member of Parliament for St Albans

**Liz Jarvis MP**  
Member of Parliament for Eastleigh

**Sarah Green MP**  
Member of Parliament for Chesham and Amersham

**Marie Goldman MP**  
Member of Parliament for Chelmsford

**Edward Morello MP**  
Member of Parliament for West Dorset

**Alex Brewer MP**  
Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire

**Clive Jones MP**  
Member of Parliament for Wokingham

**Wendy Chamberlain MP**  
Member of Parliament for North East Fife