

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
Via email

31 July 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

## **Review of visa fees and health surcharges for migrant workers**

Following the announcement of the increase in visa fees and health surcharges for all migrants including workers, students and visitors, I am writing to urge the Government to reassess this measure and consider the impact of the proposed changes on UK's businesses and the economy.

Taking work visas, the UK already has some of the highest costs in the world. An application for a Skilled Worker Visa for more than 3 years currently costs £1,235 and this is set to increase to around £1,480 under these proposals. Taken together with the planned increase of the Immigration Health Surcharge from £624 to £1,035 per adult per year, plus other costs such as the Immigration Skills Charge, the total cost to bring in one skilled worker is nearly £10,000. This is even before costs for dependants are accounted for.

Whilst the incoming worker is expected to pay some of these costs, in reality these are often covered by the employer. At a time when businesses face a difficult economic outlook and are struggling with significant skills gaps, this measure undermines our competitiveness when it comes to attracting top talent compared to other countries.

We welcome the Government's efforts to grow domestic skills and talent, but this should be accompanied by a pragmatic approach to skilled immigration to support our world leading industries. The UK has many strengths that are attractive to overseas workers, but this measure acts as a barrier for those looking to come to work. If the UK does not remain economically viable as a destination for international talent, we will end up losing out to other European countries, such as Germany and France. Globally, countries such as Japan also have considerably lower visa costs.

We urge the Government to review these measures so that businesses can attract the right skills to plug key shortages and ensure that the UK remains a world-leading destination for top talent.

Yours sincerely,



John Dickie  
Chief Executive