

Wednesday, 19 February 2020

Comment on UK Government's Points-Based Immigration System

Commenting on today's publication of the UK Government's points-based immigration system by the Home Office, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"The college sector in Scotland will be disappointed by the UK Government's announcement on immigration and the new points-based system. It is a missed opportunity which does not contain provision for the return of a post-study work visa for college students and the new system will exacerbate skills shortages across many sectors in Scotland.

"The new immigration system will adversely impact on the ability of colleges to play their crucial role in addressing specific skills gaps, in areas such as health and social care, early years and childcare, and hospitality and tourism, to support the wider economy in Scotland, and neither is there consideration of regional variations within Scotland pertaining to salary thresholds which will also affect Scotland's rural colleges.

"Colleges Scotland believes that the salary thresholds for working visas could have a severely detrimental impact on the future ability of the college sector to attract and retain support staff in Scotland.

"Overseas students greatly enrich the college sector and the new system is likely to diminish those positive impacts by making it harder for those students with industry-level qualifications and skills to secure settled status, develop their careers and contribute to Scotland's inclusive economic growth."

ENDS

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