

# Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2024



## United Kingdom

### UK publishes Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules

#### Executive summary

On 19 February 2024, the UK government published a [Statement of Changes](#) to the Immigration Rules (HC 556). The changes introduced impact care workers and senior care workers under the Skilled Worker route, and individuals under the Ukraine Family Scheme (UFS), Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (HFU) and Ukraine Extension Scheme (UES), among others.

#### Care and senior care workers

Effective 11 March 2024, the following changes will be implemented for care workers and senior care workers (occupation codes 6145 and 6146):

- ▶ Firms in England that sponsor these individuals must be regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Firms in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be exempt from this new requirement.
- ▶ Most dependents will no longer be able to accompany or join these workers in the UK, except children born to them in the UK.

Transitional arrangements are being applied for Skilled Workers who are sponsored in these occupations before these changes come into force. These arrangements allow them to apply to extend their permission with the same sponsor, and settle, without the CQC regulation requirement applying to them. They also allow such individuals to be accompanied or joined by dependents, including in cases where they change jobs to another sponsor that meets the CQC regulation requirement.

#### Ukraine Family Scheme

The UK government has closed the UFS for new applicants with immediate effect. As per the government's [explanatory memorandum](#) also published on 19 February 2024, part of the rationale for closing the UFS for new applicants is the availability of the HFU, which the government considers more sustainable in the long term as it mandates accommodation checks for applicants, accommodation commitments from sponsors and other background checks (no such check was conducted under the UFS). Individuals who already have permission to enter or stay under the UFS will continue to hold that permission until its expiry.

#### Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Effective 11 March 2024, the period of permission granted to new HFU applicants, including eligible minors, will be reduced from 36 months to 18 months.

#### Ukraine Extension Scheme

Under the current rules, UES applications must be submitted on or before 16 May 2024. Effective 11 March 2024, amendments will be made to the UES that will allow children born in the UK after 18 March 2022 to individuals who already have permission under any Ukraine scheme (including UFS) to apply under the UES even after 16 May 2024. The validity of the permission granted to these children will be in line with that of their parents' permission. In cases where the validity of the parents' permission differs, the validity of the child's permission will be in line with the parent whose permission expires later.

## Impact on employers

The changes relating to care workers and senior care workers in the Skilled Worker route are likely to have a direct impact on businesses, charities and volunteer organizations that use these routes to sponsor workers. For the changes to the Ukraine schemes, no significant impact on businesses is expected. However, sponsors may consider these changes to ensure compliance with right to work checks and other requirements.

## Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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