**HMG Stakeholder Engagement Exercise on Short-Term Mobility**

**March 2022**

The government is looking to understand the effectiveness of the UK’s current mobility options for facilitating short-term, productive business assignments **(i.e. around 90 days or less in length)**.

This follows interest in government on both how the UK’s offer on mobility with international trade partners can be improved and what the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended last October on short-term assignments in their Intra-Company Transfers (ICTs) report.

There have been calls from a few stakeholders, such as TheCityUK, EY, and The City of London Corporation, to improve the UK’s short-term mobility offer. However, there are evidence gaps, particularly quantitative evidence, where we need your help to fully understand the case for, and against, policy reform.

This engagement intends to gather evidence on how different sectors find the existing UK immigration routes are working for their short-term assignment needs.

Findings from this exercise will allow government to explore whether any gaps or frictions stakeholders are experiencing can be solved through the current immigration system and, if not, what reforms might be needed to resolve such ‘problem cases’.

Therefore, we kindly would ask you to answer this short list of questions on the topic and return answers by **Monday 25 April** to [Terence.boniface@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Terence.boniface@beis.gov.uk)

If you believe you are not the best person in your organisation to respond, please feel free to forward it to your inhouse mobility or immigration leads.

We thank you for your interest and cooperation in advance. Please note that the questions below *are not an indication of government policy,* and that any feedback provided is without prejudice to the ultimate results of any policy consideration.

**We would encourage you to give as much detail as possible and answer all questions you feel are relevant to you.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation/ Business** |  |
| **Contact Name** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Contact Email** |  |

Your personal information will be stored securely and will only be accessed by researchers and policy officials leading this engagement exercise within BEIS. Any personal or identifying information will be stored separately from your responses and will be destroyed after one year. Our processes will comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and your personal identity will not be disclosed.

We would like to use the information that you provide in response to this questionnaire and the follow-on interview to help develop policy with other Government Departments. To do this we will pull together the information you provide from which we may wish to extract examples and quotations to form case-studies. You may choose whether you wish for us to be able to share this information anonymously or with your organisation named, for circulation across BEIS or across Whitehall. Further information on how your information will be held can be seen in our [personal information charter](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy/about/personal-information-charter).

**Please note that if you do not click ‘Yes’ or do provide a clear narrative for why you have chosen ‘Other’, it will be assumed that your answer is ‘No’.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes/No/ Other** | **Other** |
| Do you consent to participate in this research? | Choose an item. |  |
| Can we share your organisation’s identity…? | | |
| a) across the core project team in the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Her Majesty’s Treasury (HMT) and the Home Office? | Choose an item. |  |
| b) across all Government Departments, including devolved administrations? | Choose an item. |  |
| c) for named quotes or case studies which may be put in the public domain? [If we do this we will return to the you with any quotes or case studies before they are put into the public domain] | Choose an item. |  |
| d) I would prefer BEIS not to share my organisation’s identity beyond the core BEIS/DIT project team and to only share my responses in anonymised form. | Choose an item. |  |
| Would you be content to be contacted for further questions? | Choose an item. |  |

**Current inbound short-term mobility**

1. What are your inbound short-term business travel needs, and who do they apply to (e.g., employees, contractors, service providers etc.)?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. What UK immigration route/s are you currently using to bring individuals into the UK to address your short-term business needs?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Do you encounter any barriers, gaps or frictions when using these UK immigration routes (exampled in attached annex)? If so, what are the implications (e.g. time, opportunity, resourcing costs etc.) for your organisation?

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Current outbound short-term mobility (if applicable)**

1. To which overseas destinations do you currently travel to do business?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. When you travel to overseas destinations for business reasons, what activities do you typically do, or would you like to be able to do (if not currently permitted)?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Do you encounter any barriers when carrying out these activities? If so, what are the implication for your organisation?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Are you aware of countries that provide short-term routes that fully or largely address your business needs? If so, what is it about that country’s model that you find attractive/unattractive?

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Business needs**

1. What Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF[[1]](#footnote-2)) ‘skill level’ roles do you find you need for short-term work (e.g. degree level, doctorate level)? How does this differ to the other job roles in your business?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. If your business relies on short-term migration, why are you unable to, or choose not to, fill roles using domestic labour?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. How would you define your short-term needs in terms of the typical duration of stay and the frequency of return?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Do you see your organisation’s demand for, and use of, short-term migration routes changing in the next year (and beyond) as the global economy recovers from any covid-induced drops in business travel? If so, how?

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Additional questions**

1. If you are a trade body or association, do you believe there are specific sector(s) and/or job role(s) that are falling through the gaps of the UK’s existing short-term mobility offer?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Are there any other details that you would like to note about short-term business mobility that have not been addressed by the questions above?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. How important is short-term mobility to you compared to other forms of mobility?

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Annex – Existing UK Short-Term Business Mobility Offer**

The UK’s main offers in this space includes:

* **Standard Visitor** route – This allows individuals to travel to the UK to undertake certain business activities (e.g. attending meetings, interviews, giving lectures, etc.) for up to 180 days (6 months). However, individuals are not able to undertake paid or unpaid work for a UK employer or be self-employed.
* **Paid Permitted Engagement** (PPE) route – This allows individuals to work in the UK for up to 30 days (1 month) if invited as an expert in their profession by a UK-based organisation or client. This work can be paid, but the list of eligible activities is limited.
* (Tier 5) **Frontier Worker permit** route – This allows individuals to work in the UK for up to 180 days (6 months) per year provided they started working in the UK before 31 December 2020, live outside of the UK, and are from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

Other routes that allow individuals to work in the UK are predominantly longer-term worker visas. This includes the **Skilled Worker** **visa**, the **Graduate visa** and the **Intra-Company Transfers (ICT) visa**.

1. [What RQF qualification levels mean - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)