

38 Degrees Briefing:
Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19
Written evidence: House of Commons Public Bill Committee

- This briefing summarises the overwhelming public support for a post-Brexit immigration system that prioritises our NHS and care sectors.
- 170,000 members of the public have signed 38 Degrees petitions to the Home Secretary Sajid Javid, asking him to make new immigration rules work for our NHS and care services.
- They reflect broader public opinion: YouGov polling in January 2019 found 8 in 10 voters think Britain should welcome sustained or even higher numbers of doctors and nurses to work in the NHS after Brexit. This was the same proportion when Leave voters were asked.
- The committee should represent the views of the public and move, or support, any amendments to the bill that would ensure nurses and care workers are not blocked from coming to the UK to work in our health services.
- For more information, contact Laura Townshend, Campaigns Director, 07710392372, laura.t@38degrees.org.uk

Background

The government's post-Brexit immigration plans, which float the idea of a £30,000 salary threshold for workers coming to the UK, would exacerbate staff shortages in our health service and threaten NHS England's recently announced 10-year plan for the NHS.¹ The starting salary of a qualified nurse in the UK is £22,000 and the average salary for a Health Care Assistant is £15,000.

38 Degrees public survey

In one of the largest surveys of its kind, 115,000 38 Degrees members, who voted both Leave and Remain and come from every constituency in the country, have come together to decide where they stand on new immigration rules.

The results showed that there was consensus around an immigration system that we have control over, treats people who come to the UK with decency and compassion, and helps our public services, like our NHS, thrive. 85% of respondents think it's important that Britain continues to welcome those who work in our public services, like the NHS and in social care.

135,000 members of the public have, in addition, signed 38 Degrees petitions to the Home Secretary, asking for our NHS and social care services to be prioritised under new immigration rules - and for any new salary thresholds to work for the needs of those services.²

YouGov polling

- A YouGov poll of British adults, commissioned by 38 Degrees and undertaken in January 2019, found 8 in 10 voters (83%) think Britain should welcome sustained or even higher numbers of doctors and nurses to work in the NHS after Brexit.

- The percentage was even higher (84%) when Leave voters were asked.
- The same poll showed that 6 in 10 Leave voters (60%) believe that the same number, or more, care workers should be allowed to come to work in Britain post-Brexit.
- However support from Leave voters flips when asked about welcoming bankers to the UK under a new immigration system. Almost 6 in 10 (56%) think we should allow fewer bankers or none at all after March 29th.
- 38 Degrees commissioned a survey amongst a representative sample of British adults through YouGov. The survey was carried out between the 8th and 9th of January 2019 and 1,811 British adults were surveyed. To see the full results please contact 38 Degrees.

If you'd like to learn more about 38 Degrees' campaigns, or have any questions about 38 Degrees more generally, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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About 38 Degrees

38 Degrees is a campaign organisation representing two million people in the UK. There are thousands of us in each and every constituency and we come from all backgrounds, ages and political outlooks. We campaign to support our NHS, to protect our countryside, to make sure people's voices are heard throughout the Brexit process - and on many other issues, local and national. We sign petitions and email our representatives, we crowdfund important research projects and meet our elected politicians face-to-face. We are a politically independent, not-for-profit organisation, funded by thousands of donations.

Notes:

[1] BBC: Immigration: White Paper sets out post-Brexit rules for migrants

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-46613900>

Gov.UK: Home Secretary announces new skills-based immigration system:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-skills-based-immigration-system>

The Financial Times: EU nurses give up on Brexit Britain as their prospects dim:

<https://www.ft.com/content/8f2d6e22-e7f9-11e8-8a85-04b8afea6ea3>

[2] Over 135,000 members of the public have signed two petitions, calling on the government to make sure our NHS and social care services are prioritised under new immigration rules.

<https://38d.gs/petition1>

<https://38d.gs/petition2>