

Remedium Partners responds to the Home Office's relaxation of immigration rules for overseas doctors

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Following the Home Office's announcement

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/doctors-and-nurses-to-be-taken-out-of-tier-2-visa-cap>) today that doctors will be excluded from the government's Tier 2 visa cap, Philip Braham, co-founder of Remedium Partners (<https://www.remediumpartners.com/>) - a consultancy which specialises in the recruitment of overseas permanent doctors to ease the NHS' reliance on locums - comments:

"We are delighted that the Government has listened to ongoing concerns (<https://www.bmjjournals.org/doi/10.1136/bmj.k2009>) about visa caps and has removed its restrictions on the number of overseas doctors that can work in the UK. The NHS has long relied on the knowledge and expertise of this diverse talent pool. However, due to the visa caps a number of our NHS hospital partners have been running rotas with numerous gaps for many months now. Today's news will allow departments to run safer, more efficient services for patients, with larger numbers of staff. We also welcome the news for our community of doctors, many of whom have been waiting for months to relocate. They will now be able to take up their posts and become an integral part of our NHS.

"We are also hopeful that this decision will go a long way towards removing the NHS's reliance on expensive agency locum doctors as a short-term solution to staffing gaps. Given that a single locum can cost as much as £100,000 in agency fees alone, the NHS not only stands to save significant amounts of money long term, but it will be better placed to provide patients with continuity of care due to a much larger pool of permanent doctors. And, while today's decision marks an exciting period of transformation for the NHS, Trusts will need to focus on strategic workforce planning strategies that not only attract overseas doctors to work in their hospitals, but also retain them on a long term basis. Support with relocation, the development of robust induction programmes and access to ongoing professional development will be crucial to the success of Trusts' long term attraction and retention strategies."

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ABOUT REMEDIUM PARTNERS

Established in 2013, Remedium Partners is fast becoming one of the leading providers of permanent and fixed-term doctors into the NHS and HSE across hospitals both in the UK and Ireland. At Remedium Partners, we believe that placing permanent and fixed term doctors, rather than locums, saves the health service time and money. Having placed over 500 doctors since we were founded, we estimate to have saved the NHS in excess of £50M.

With over 20 years healthcare and recruitment experience collectively, our team truly understand the market we operate in and the qualities of our doctors, best matching them to the needs of our clients. The positions we work on require a unique understanding of medical specialties and our team of highly experienced market specialists, both in the UK and India, enable us to source high calibre candidates from around the world.