



Home Office

Tom Pursglove MP  
Minister of State for Legal Migration  
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Jane Golding  
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DECS Reference: MIN/1065378/23

8 January 2024

Dear Ms Jane Golding,

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2023 to the Home Secretary about the minimum income requirement (MIR) as part of the measures that were announced on 4 December 2023 by the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary to reduce net migration and curb immigration abuse. I am replying as the Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border. I trust you will share this response with your co-signatory.

As you acknowledge, in that package was a proposal to raise the MIR for family visas. You may be aware that I have since issued a 'Dear Colleague' letter on the overall package, dated 21 December 2023, setting out further clarificatory detail around implementation of the changes, which I hope has offered clarity and reassurance.

The MIR was introduced in July 2012 to ensure family migrants could be supported at a reasonable level, so they do not unreasonably become a burden on the British taxpayer, and to help ensure they can participate sufficiently in everyday life to facilitate their integration into British society. It has not been increased in line with inflation or real wages since its introduction, or been adjusted in light of rising numbers of migrants using the route.

We will bring this threshold into line with the new minimum general salary threshold for skilled workers, which is currently £38,700. This will ensure people only bring dependents to the UK they can support financially and will apply to all British and settled sponsors under the five-year partner route.

In Spring 2024, we will raise the minimum income threshold for family visas to £29,000, that is the 25th percentile of earnings for jobs which are eligible for skilled worker visas. We will incrementally increase the threshold, moving to the 40th percentile (currently £34,500), and finally to the 50th percentile (currently £38,700, and the level at which the general skilled worker threshold is set) by early 2025.

There will no longer be a separate child element to the MIR, to ensure that British nationals are not treated less favourably than migrants who are required to meet the general skilled worker threshold as a flat rate, regardless of any children being sponsored. Other aspects of the MIR will remain unchanged, such as the various ways in which it can be met and the consideration of exceptional circumstances where it may not be met.

This change will not be applied retrospectively to people already on the five-year partner route. Those who already have a family visa within the five-year partner route, or who apply before the minimum income threshold is raised, will continue to have their applications assessed against the current income requirement and will not be required to meet the increased threshold. This will also be the case for children seeking to join or accompany parents.

Anyone granted a fiancé(e) visa before the minimum income threshold is raised will also be assessed against the current income requirement when they apply for a family visa within the five-year partner route. Those already in the UK on a different route, who apply to switch into the five-year partner route after the MIR has been increased, will be subject to the new income requirement.

The Government will publish an Equality Impact Assessment on this change in due course.

A fact sheet and an impact assessment can be found on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fact-sheet-on-net-migration-measures-further-detail>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legal-migration-statement-estimated-immigration-impacts/legal-migration-statement-estimated-immigration-impacts-accessible>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', is centered above the printed name.

**Tom Pursglove MP**  
**Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border**