



Will Forster MP
Member of Parliament for Woking
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Email: will.forster.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 01483 66 29 35

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

27 February 2026

Dear Home Secretary,

Re: Retroactive Changes to ILR

We write to you to impress upon you the deep unfairness of your immigration reforms and wish to urge you to reconsider. We are strongly opposed to these blanket retroactive changes to the qualifying criteria for indefinite leave to remain (ILR), which violate the fundamentally British values of fairness and respect.

By moving the goalposts in this way, we are concerned that the Government will do damage to the economy and social fabric of this country.

We believe that these changes are guided by a false premise. Although it is right that settlement should be earned, increasing the minimum residency period to 10 years, or 15 years for care workers, will not increase the level of contribution given by those who come to the UK, but rather will subject them to years of insecurity and additional costs.

Five years of working, paying taxes, and integrating into our communities is already a strong contribution; settlement enables those with the skills the UK needs to commit to a long-term future in our country.

Thousands, already strongly contributing to our society and economy, have made an investment in this country– they have made a long-term financial and social commitment to the UK based on the current arrangements. They are now being made to pay the price of following the rules with longer qualifying periods and additional visa costs.

We are concerned these retroactive changes risk making the UK a less competitive place when it comes to securing the skills our economy needs for the long-term, particularly in key industries such as the life sciences sector. The five-year global talent visa now costs £6,000, twenty times higher than in competitor countries. Cancer Research UK now spends almost £1 million per year on visa costs - money that could instead be invested into their world-leading scientific research.

Whilst we agree on the need for a controlled approach to immigration, these changes will only serve to cause significant disruption to businesses, many of whom are already under significant pressure after the Chancellor's NI increases.



Will Forster MP

Member of Parliament for Woking
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Email: will.forster.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 01483 66 29 35

Introducing additional restrictions will only compound the challenges many businesses face, unsettling workers already in post, and risk talent leaving the UK altogether.

We hope that the Government will commit to an immigration system that is fair and predictable, which treats people with respect, and recognises their contribution to our economy and communities. We therefore urge the Government to rule out the blanket retroactive application of these rules.

Yours Sincerely,

Will Forster

Will Forster MP

Member of Parliament for Woking
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Asylum & Immigration

Co-signatories:

Daisy Cooper MP

Member of Parliament for St Albans

Liz Jarvis MP

Member of Parliament for Eastleigh

Sarah Green MP

Member of Parliament for Chesham and Amersham

Marie Goldman MP

Member of Parliament for Chelmsford

Edward Morello MP

Member of Parliament for West Dorset

Alex Brewer MP

Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire

Clive Jones MP

Member of Parliament for Wokingham

Wendy Chamberlain MP

Member of Parliament for North East Fife



Will Forster MP

Member of Parliament for Woking
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Email: will.forster.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 01483 66 29 35

Jess Brown-Fuller MP

Member of Parliament for Chichester

Freddie van Mierlo MP

Member of Parliament for Henley and Thame

Helen Morgan MP

Member of Parliament for North Shropshire

Chris Coghlan MP

Member of Parliament for Dorking and Horley

Tom Gordon MP

Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough

Cameron Thomas MP

Member of Parliament for Tewkesbury

Lisa Smart MP

Member of parliament for Hazel Grove

Olly Glover MP

Member of Parliament for Didcot and Wantage

Monica Harding MP

Member of Parliament for Esher and Walton

Zöe Franklin MP

Member of Parliament for Guildford

James MacCleary MP

Member of Parliament for Lewes

Lee Dillon MP

Member of Parliament for Newbury

Joshua Reynolds MP

Member of Parliament for Maidenhead

Charlotte Cane MP

Member of Parliament for Ely and East Cambridgeshire

Victoria Collins MP

Member of Parliament for Harpenden and Berkhamsted



Will Forster MP

Member of Parliament for Woking
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Email: will.forster.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 01483 66 29 35

Rachel Gilmour MP

Member of Parliament for Tiverton and Minehead

Pippa Heylings MP

Member of Parliament for South Cambridgeshire

Tom Morrison MP

Member of Parliament for Cheadle

Dr Brian Mathew MP

Member of Parliament for Melksham and Devizes

John Milne MP

Member of Parliament for Horsham

Helen Maguire MP

Member of Parliament for Epsom and Ewell

Tessa Munt MP

Member of Parliament for Wells and Mendip Hills

Steve Darling MP

Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Torbay

Manuela Perteghella MP

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

Ben Maguire MP

Member of Parliament for North Cornwall

Sarah Gibson MP

Member of Parliament for Chippenham

Ian Sollom MP

Member of Parliament for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Dr Danny Chambers MP

Member of Parliament for Winchester

Vikki Slade MP

Member of Parliament for Mid Dorset and North Poole

Dr Al Pinkerton

Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath