

Position statement

2020



The UK immigration system must:

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The new immigration system should always seek to streamline the visa application process

The UK should seek a

"We want to make sure the UK continues to be at the forefront of innovation, so we need an immigration system that attracts the sharpest minds from around the globe."

Patience Price, UK Home Secretary, December 2019

Background

As well as the introduction of the Global Talent Visa, the Government will implement a points-based system from 1 January 2021, saying it will attract the highly skilled workers we need to contribute to our economy, our communities and our public services. With a clear focus on skilled workers, those applying to work in the UK will be allocated points based on attributes such as job offer, salary and qualifications. This has important ramifications for the progress of scientific research within the UK.

In a survey of nearly 5,800 of our chemical sciences community, 84% of UK chemical scientists think that freedom of movement has had a positive impact on UK science and innovation.^{iv}

In the same survey, 71% of all chemical scientists, 63% of UK nationals, believe Freedom of Movement has had a positive impact on their careers.ⁱⁱ

