



PRESS STATEMENT

24 March 2016

Migration Advisory Committee recommendation that nurses be included on shortage occupation list is key to maintaining high quality NHS care

Commenting on the Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) [report](#) to the Home Office regarding whether nurses should be included on the government's shortage occupation list, Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy at NHS Providers, said:

"Given the shortages of nurses, it is vital that NHS providers are fully supported by the government to recruit nurses from outside of Europe to ensure safe and high quality care for patients. We welcome the independent Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that nurses be on the Government's shortage occupation list. The Secretary of State for Health's work to achieve this outcome is particularly welcome.

"Overseas recruitment is an important option for NHS providers. The shortage of available nurses in the UK has meant that spending on agency staff has risen steeply. Today's announcement will help to reduce excessive costs in this area while local recruitment and retention plans for nurses are developed.

"Although this recommendation is important in addressing an urgent issue, this step alone will not solve the workforce challenges across the NHS. There needs to be a clear national workforce strategy that supports providers as they work locally and across health systems to create a sustainable workforce. This is needed to help avoid the fragmented approach that has characterised national workforce planning in recent years."

Ends

Notes to editors

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has 94% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
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