



Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

20 December 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

Following the changes to the immigration system which you announced on 4 December 2023, we are seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the potential impact on the UK science sector and its ability to continue making significant contributions to the UK economy.

The success of our science sector is underpinned by the success of our international collaboration in science. Our scientists, universities, SMEs and industry compete in a global race for talent, from cutting edge university research, to commercialisation to specialist businesses, providing a stable and long-term framework for scientific endeavour.

We are concerned that the recently announced changes to visa policy will create barriers to the continued success of our science sector, preventing UK SMEs and science companies from competing in specialist global talent markets, particularly for early career scientists. The new minimum income requirement of £38,700 is above the average starting salary in the UK for postdoc researchers, technicians and other vital scientific roles, which are not all covered by the Global Talent visa.

The highest skilled individuals should be welcomed to the UK with their families and dependants; similarly, those studying in the UK should be able to remain and apply their skills in UK industries. Without further mitigation, the new minimum income requirement would deter talented scientists from contributing to the success of UK science. Rising fees for international students, including the NHS surcharge, could also restrict the UK's competitive position in world science.

We would be pleased to work with you and your department to ensure that the new changes to the immigration system do not reduce the UK's attractiveness to top scientific talent. For further information or to arrange a meeting, please contact Emily Wood, Public Affairs Adviser at the Royal Society of Chemistry on woode@rsc.org or 020 7440 3325.

Yours sincerely,



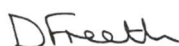
Dr Mark Downs C Biol CSci FRSB
Chief Executive
Royal Society of Biology



Tom Grinyer
Chief Executive
Institute of Physics



Professor Mike Edmunds
President
Royal Astronomical Society



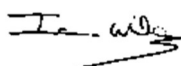
Professor Della Freeth
Chief Executive
Science Council



David Wells MSc FIBMS CSci Hon DSc
FRCPATH (Hon) FAHCS (Hon)
Chief Executive
Institute of Biomedical Science



Jasbir Sidhu
President
Nuclear Institute



Ian Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
**BASES, the British Association of Sport
and Exercise Sciences**



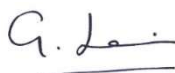
Dr Helen Pain CSci CChem FRSC
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Royal Society of Chemistry



Simon Thompson
Chief Executive
The Geological Society



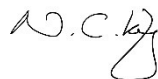
Lynn Ladbrook
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Gwynne Lewis
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Phil Morgan
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**Institute of Physics and Engineering in
Medicine (IPEM)**



Professor Nicky King
Chair
Society for Natural Sciences