

Response ID ANON-6TS3-ZZJP-X

Submitted to Further reforms to the work permit system
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Background

Previous reforms – 2017/18

[Link to Our Island Plan and Economic Strategy](#)

The case for further reform

The impact of Brexit

The vision for the Work Permit system

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:
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What is your email address?

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What is your organisation?

Organisation:

May we publish your response?

Yes, you can publish my response in full

Further reforms to the work permit system

In bringing forward the proposals as set out in this consultation, do you consider that are there any specific employments, occupations, or economic sectors for which the requirement to obtain a work permit (i.e. to maintain the current process) should be retained rather than temporarily being replaced by a registration requirement?

Please provide your comments::

Almost all occupations and economic sectors should have work permit requirements retained.

Flooding the Isle of Man with a free-for-all migration system will be bad for the wages of workers.

Do you support the principle of requiring an employer to register non-Isle of Man Workers to provide key information for both monitoring purposes and to provide labour market intelligence?

Yes

If NO, please provide further information.:

Yes, because almost all occupations and economic sectors should have work permit requirements retained. Flooding the Isle of Man with a free-for-all migration system will be bad for the wages of workers.

Further, more than just registering workers, all employers should be required to verify the eligibility of workers to work.

Do you support the principle of maintaining the existing provisions in respect of persons with certain criminal convictions?

Yes

If NO, please provide further information.:

Do you support the retention of a fee, which would be paid at the time of registration by the employer for all new roles requiring off Island workers including those occupations and roles previously subject to exemptions?

No

If YES, please provide feedback on whether this should be at the same level as currently charged, or an alternative rate. If NO, please provide further explanation for your answer.:

If there is a need for a worker, then slugging employers with fees are harmful.

On balance, after considering the Department's vision for the work permit system and subsequent proposals, do you support the proposed approach?

No

If NO, please provide further explanation for your answer.:

Almost all occupations and economic sectors should have work permit requirements retained.

Flooding the Isle of Man with a free-for-all migration system will be bad for the wages of workers.

Please provide any further information and feedback on the Department's proposals.

If yes, please provide your views.:

Immigration should be carefully controlled and managed: there's room to tinker around the edges here and there to improve the processes for the benefit of our community, but the current managed system of work permits has the right foundations.

Under the right circumstances, immigration has the potential to benefit both the migrant themselves (they get the benefit of living in the Isle of Man!) and the Isle of Man (they get the benefit of that migrant contributing to society). But not every migrant would benefit from moving to the Isle of Man, and the Isle of Man would not benefit from every migrant coming here. We need a fair and managed immigration system that is based around a couple of key principles:

-People should be judged on their capability to contribute to the nation.

-People should be judged on the content of their character, and not the colour of their skin.

-We should build a thriving community here on the Isle of Man so that our children aspire to return to the Isle of Man, especially after completing education elsewhere.

I agree with the Irish Council of Trade Unions who said, "It is an iron law of economics that an abundant supply of labour pushes down its cost. It is insulting people's intelligence to pretend otherwise."

A free-for-all migration system will likely lead to lower wages on the Isle of Man, and put a further squeeze on the households least likely to suffer lower wages. This is why I have a long-term track record of opposing a free-for-all migration system.

The current work permit and migration system in the Isle of Man does a reasonable job of upholding these policy principles. It is, roughly speaking, based around the right concepts.

That said, some Manx employers have said that employing specialist staff from off-island is too hard, and that the system should be streamlined. Similarly, others have made the argument that since we restrict workers, but have no such restrictions on non-workers, we need to better ensure we are attracting the right balance of migrants.

Further, too often, discussion of the Manx migration system focuses purely on people who would be new-to-Mann. Instead, we have a ready made group of people who already have a seed of love for our island who we should be attracting to our island: The Manx diaspora of children who have moved away. Too many of our children leave the island in search of dynamic and rewarding careers elsewhere, and forget about coming home. We should attract those people to return home to build safe, happy, healthy and well-rounded lives back here on the Isle of Man.

Since work and careers pull many people away on the Isle of Man, that's got to be the first thing we focus on: allowing dynamic and exciting industries to thrive here on the Isle of Man. Hence, easing the squeeze on the cost of living and focusing on securing jobs must be the first priority of our community going forward.

In that vein, the Isle of Man should take advantage of new visa category recently introduced for the UK: the High Potential Individual Visa. The visa is available to people from across the world who have great potential to be able to contribute to building our nation.

The Isle of Man Government should immediately waive any requirement for a work permit for anyone holding a High Potential Individual Visa (and their spouses). This will allow such people to come to the Isle of Man, contribute to the Isle of Man, and allow the Isle of Man to benefit from the potential of applicants developing an exciting and dynamic career on the Isle of Man.

Such applicants have already been vetted by the UK immigration system as being of good character, speaking English, being able to support themselves financially, and so on. These people will be judged on their capability to contribute to the nation, and will be judged on the content of their character, and not the colour of their skin.