



**STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR SIR DAVID METCALF, CHAIR OF THE
MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S
COMMISSION REGARDING NURSES AND THE SHORTAGE OCCUPATION LIST**

Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE, Chair of the Migration Advisory Committee, said:

“The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) considered NHS nurses in its partial review of the Shortage Occupation List in February this year. At the time, the MAC’s decision not to place nurses on the SOL was based in large part on detailed evidence provided by the Centre for Workforce Intelligence, on behalf of the Department of Health.

“The MAC is aware the balance of nursing labour supply and demand has altered in recent months and welcomes the opportunity provided by the Government’s commission to review the latest evidence.

“In addition, there has also been public comment on the salary threshold of £35,000 for Tier 2 migrants who wish to settle in the UK from 2016. The MAC recommended this figure in 2011 and stated the Government may wish to consider some exceptions, including nurses. Of course, inclusion on the SOL means the £35,000 salary threshold does not apply.”

The MAC’s most recent report reviewing whether nurses should be placed on the shortage occupation list is “*Partial review of the shortage occupation lists for the UK and for Scotland*” (Migration Advisory Committee, February 2015) and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partial-review-of-the-shortage-occupation-lists>.

The MAC report on salary thresholds for settlement in the UK is “*Analysis of the Points Based System: Settlement rights of migrants in Tier 1 and Tier 2*” (Migration Advisory Committee, November 2011) and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/settlement-rights-of-migrants-tier-1-and-2>.