

1. The 17,100 ‘newcomers’ to the UK, stated in a submission to the Migration Impact Forum, includes historic figures for all schemes which will be absorbed under the four of the sub-categories that will form the highly skilled tier of the points based system combined with estimates of accompanying dependants. The subcategories and the existing schemes from which the estimate was derived include:

- Tier 1 general (which will absorb the existing Highly Skilled Migrants scheme)
- Post study (which will absorb the International Graduates and the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland schemes)
- Entrepreneurs (which will absorb current permit schemes for business people and innovators)
- Investors (which will replace the current Investors scheme)

The 17,100 figure is based on historic trends and represents migrants (and their dependants) applying to the UK for the first-time in these categories for the financial year 2006-2007. The estimate does not include migrants already in the UK, who applied into these schemes from another immigration category.

The breakdown of figures is as follows:

Sub-category	Number
Highly Skilled Migrants Programme	16,000
Routes that will be absorbed into the Entrepreneurs and Investors sub-category	290
Routes that will be absorbed into the Post-Study sub-category	780
Grand Total	17,070

2. The number of migrants (and their dependants) who switched into the highly-skilled migrants scheme from another immigration category in the same period are not newcomers to the UK, possessing permission to be in the UK under a separate immigration category which permits applications for eligible migrants to switch into the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme.

In 2006-7, 29,800 migrants including dependants\*\* (14,900 main applicants plus 14,900 dependants) switched into the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme from another immigration category\*\*\*.

The breakdown of the immigration categories that main applicants switched from is as follows:

Immigration Status	Number
Dependant	40
Exceptional leave to remain	70
Postgraduate Doctors	3,670
Residence permit	10
Science and engineering graduate scheme	40

Spouse	170
Student	1,820
Visitor	50
Work permit	3,680
Working holidaymaker	2,430
Other	20
Unknown (including immigration categories with fewer than 10 people)	2,910
Grand total	14,910

Migrants in some of these categories will not be permitted to switch into the highly skilled tier of the Points Based System as now. People with leave as Working Holidaymakers, or to take the PLAB test or on Clinical Attachment will not be able to switch into any Highly Skilled sub-category. In the future, switching to the highly skilled will not be permitted for migrants in Tier 3 (low skilled) or Tier 5 (youth mobility and temporary workers) once these tiers have been established.

\*Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Dependant figures are estimates based on historic trends. Figure put to the MIF rounded to the nearest 100.

\*\*Dependant figures are estimates based on historic trends.

\*\*\* The figure for main applicants is based on BIA Management Information on the numbers of HSMP approval letters granted in the financial year 2006/07. The HSMP process works in two stages: the migrant applies for an approval letter (which is when the points test is applied) and they then apply for leave to remain. The data used is based on grants of approval letters (note that some migrants granted approval letters may not get leave to remain).

\*\*\*\*Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Source: BIA Management Information.

Figures should be treated with caution. Previous immigration categories are recorded in free text fields and manually sorted/grouped into appropriate categories.