

## **Digital jobs and paramedics recommended for the shortage occupation list**

Growth of the UK's digital sector will be helped by bringing in experienced staff to assist small firms to expand, according to a report published today by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

The MAC is recommending that a small number of senior jobs in digital technology, limited to people with five years' or more experience, should be added to the shortage occupation list. The jobs to be included are product manager; data scientist; senior developer and cyber security specialist.

The MAC, which offers independent, evidence-based advice to the government on migration issues, was commissioned in September 2014 to carry out a partial review of the list.

The review focused on graduate jobs in the digital technology and health sectors, and overhead linesworkers in the electricity supply industry.

GPs were considered for inclusion, but evidence indicates there are enough medical students in the UK and Department of Health is already considering options to incentivise the role. In the meantime, GPs can be brought to the UK via other immigration routes.

Nurses are not recommended for inclusion as the MAC did not receive evidence of a national shortage.

However, it is proposed paramedics are added for the first time. The MAC found there are no other short-term solutions to ease the pressure on the existing workforce across the UK.

Chair of the MAC, Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE, said:

“Our extensive consultation with the digital technology sector revealed that smaller companies are struggling to compete with large firms when it comes to employing the most experienced and specialist staff to help grow their business.

“Companies told us there was a lack of UK experience in a variety of jobs, and that they were keen to bring in staff from outside the EEA to take up these roles and train UK staff. This would benefit these companies in future, and enable them to employ the brightest and best for the role.

“We recognise that there is a shortfall in the numbers of GPs being trained but consider that the solution to this is in the hands of the health service. The health sector told us that, nationally, they do not need any jobs in nursing to be on the shortage list but we agreed with their assessment that there is presently a shortage of skilled paramedics.”

In total, it is recommended 10 jobs are added to the list. These also include low voltage overhead linesworkers; clinical radiology consultants; and non-consultant training roles in paediatrics.

Further to this, the MAC recommends a number of jobs in the health service are removed from the list including haematology consultants; non-consultant non-training roles in anaesthetics; and therapeutic radiographers.

Scotland has its own shortage occupation list, in addition to the UK list. The MAC has recommended that several job titles be added to the Scotland list including consultants in anaesthetics, paediatrics and specialist nurses in neonatal or intensive care units.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

1. For more information, or to request an interview with Professor Metcalf, contact the Migration Advisory Committee press office on 020 7035 3535.
2. The jobs recommended for inclusion in the shortage occupation list are; consultant in clinical radiology; non-consultant, non-training roles in paediatrics and in old age psychiatry; core trainees in psychiatry; training roles in emergency medicine, paramedics qualified to NQF 6+; prosthetists and orthotists; overhead linesworkers (low-voltage); product manager; data scientist; senior developer; cyber security specialist.
3. The MAC recommend that the following jobs be removed from the shortage list: consultants in haematology; non-consultant, non-training medical staff posts in psychiatry (excluding old-age psychiatry), general medicine specialities delivering acute care services (intensive care medicine, general internal medicine (acute)), anaesthetics, and rehabilitation medicine; HPC registered therapeutic radiographers; and specialist nurses working in neonatal or paediatric intensive care units.
4. Retained jobs include emergency medicine consultants; nuclear medicine scientists; and sonographers.
5. A full copy of the MAC report on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
6. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) advises the government on migration issues. It is a non-statutory, non-time-limited, non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Home Office. The MAC is made up of a chair and four other independent economists, who have been appointed under rules relating to public appointments laid down by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). Additionally, the Commission for Employment and Skills and the Home Office are represented on the committee.

7. The shortage occupation list comprises a list of occupations and job titles held to be in shortage either across the whole of the UK or in Scotland only. The government determines the composition of the list in response to advice from the MAC. The MAC's reports on the Shortage Occupation List outlines the methodology used to make the MAC's recommendations.

8. For a job to be added to the Tier 2 shortage occupation list, it must be skilled to National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 6.

9. The occupations in the list are the only positions open to migrants from outside the European Economic Area under the shortage occupation route of Tier 2 of the Points Based System and Tier 2 is subject to an annual limit of 20,700.