



Professor Brian Bell  
Migration Advisory Committee  
2nd Floor Peel Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

4 March 2021

Dear Brian

**CHANGES TO THE SHORTAGE OCCUPATION LIST**

I am writing to inform you of upcoming changes we are making to the Shortage Occupation List (SOL), following the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)’s review last year.

In the Home Secretary’s letter to you of 22 October, she commented on the rapid changes to the UK labour market and how we need time to monitor the impact of the new Skilled Worker route, as well as how the economy recovers post-Covid-19. This remains the case today. The Government therefore still considers we should not make widescale changes to the SOL relating to medium-skilled occupations, which have only recently become eligible for Skilled Worker visas, at this time.

Nevertheless, we consider this should not stand in the way of routine changes relating to occupations which were previously eligible, or the particular recruitment needs faced by the health and social care sector at this extremely challenging time. The Government is therefore making the following changes to the SOL, as informed by the MAC’s review:

Occupation code	Change to the SOL
1181 Health services and public health managers and directors	All jobs added
1242 Residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors	All jobs added
2213 Pharmacists	All jobs added
2219 Health professionals not elsewhere classified	All jobs added – The MAC recommended jobs in Wales be added to the SOL. The Government is expanding this to include all jobs across the UK.
2221 Physiotherapists	All jobs added
2314 Secondary education teaching professionals	Modern foreign language teachers added to list of existing subjects
3111 Laboratory technicians	All jobs added
6141 Nursing auxiliaries and assistants	All jobs added
6146 Senior care workers	All jobs added
5434 Chefs	Removed

We are also accepting the MAC's recommendation to recognise deckhands on large (9m+) fishing vessels and vent chick sexers as meeting the skills threshold for the Skilled Worker route, where they have 3 years' relevant experience. Although these jobs will not be included on the SOL, they will become eligible for Skilled Worker visas where a sponsoring employer is offering a salary of at least £25,600, in line with other non-shortage occupations.

These changes will take effect from 6 April. The necessary Immigration Rules changes are being laid in Parliament and published today.

We agree with the MAC's recommendations there should be a more regular pattern of major and minor reviews of the SOL in future, and the first major review should not take place before 2022. We do not intend to commission a minor review this year, making the major review in 2022 the first under this new approach. We will set out further details when this review is commissioned.

I would like to thank you and the rest of the MAC again for the high-quality report you produced.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foster', with a large flourish at the end.

**Kevin Foster MP**  
**Minister for Future Borders and Immigration**