



Home Office

Start-up and Innovator visas: Guidance for Legacy Endorsing Bodies

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1. Introduction

The Start-up and Innovator visa categories were for overseas nationals wishing to set up a business in the UK. This guidance provides you with support in your role as a legacy endorsing body within the Start-up and/or Innovator visa categories.

In this document, 'we', 'us' and 'our' refer to the Home Office. 'You' and 'your' refer to endorsing bodies. 'Visa' refers to any type of entry clearance or leave to remain.

Start-up

The **Start-up** category was for early-stage, but high potential, entrepreneurs starting a business in the UK for the first time.

Applicants did not need any funds to invest in their business at this stage.

It offered a one-off, 2-year visa, during which applicants spend the majority of their time developing their businesses, but can also take on other work outside of their businesses to support themselves. At the end of 2 years, they can switch into the Innovator Founder category (see below) to extend their stay and develop their businesses in the UK.

Innovator/Innovator Founder

Those granted leave under the Innovator program remain subject to the conditions in place at the time that leave was granted which require that they must work entirely on developing their business ventures and may **not** take on other employment outside their business. This includes anything which effectively amounts to employment, such as using their own business to hire out their labour to another employer.

Those who switch from Start up or obtain further Innovator leave after the 13th April will be considered under the Innovator Founder rules and once granted may carry out skilled work (at RQF level 3 and above).

Successful Innovators and Innovator Founders are granted leave for 3 years at a time and can bring their family members to the UK. After 3 years, Innovators can apply to extend their stay for a further 3 years or to settle permanently in the UK. Each of these 3 stages (initial application, extension, settlement) required endorsement from an endorsing body.

The role of legacy endorsing bodies

As a legacy endorsing body, you can:

- **Issue Innovator Founder endorsements** but this must only be for those you have already previously endorsed in the Start-up or Innovator visa routes prior to the 13th April 2023 for those who are:
 - Switching from Start up to Innovator Founder
 - Extending Innovator leave (which will become Innovator Founder leave)
 - Settlement applications

Your endorsement will be in the form of an endorsing letter (a suggested template for which can be found in **Annex A** of this guidance), which the applicant will use to support their visa application.

You must also Share a copy of the endorsement letter with the Home Office (sent to InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk, depending on the type of endorsement. This is so the Home Office can easily assess whether or not an applicant is legitimate.

You must also:

- **Stay in contact** with the business founders you endorse at checkpoints after 12 and 24 months and let us know if you are not satisfied with their progress.
- **Let us know** if you have any reason to believe someone you have endorsed is working in breach of their visa conditions, although we will not ask you to police this actively.
- In the Innovator category, **issue further endorsements** for extension and settlement applications.

The role of the Home Office

We do **not** ask you to:

- **Make any immigration decisions.** An endorsement is not a visa. Once someone has received an endorsement letter, they must use it to make an application to the Home Office. We will carry out our usual checks against the individual and other requirements of the category such as English language ability (B2 – upper intermediate level) and funds to support themselves and family accompanying them where they have not already been in the UK for 12 months or more (£285 for their partner, £315 for the first child and £200 for each additional).
- **Police the immigration system.** While we ask you to let us know if someone you have endorsed is no longer pursuing their business ideas or is missing a checkpoint, we do not expect you to monitor them continually. We

will make the final decision whether to curtail a visa if an individual is not pursuing their business ideas. We will not hold it against you if an individual is working in breach of their visa conditions.

- **Be subject to the same rules and compliance activity** that we ask of sponsoring employers in other categories, such as the Skilled Worker route. If you hold a licence under any other part of the immigration system, it will not be affected in any way by your activities as a legacy endorsing body.

Who could be endorsed?

You can only endorse those who you have already previously endorsed prior to the 13th April 2023 for either the Start up or Innovator visa routes, the applicant's prior endorsement will need to have been the applicants last grant of leave.

Legacy Endorsing Bodies cannot endorse new individuals who have not already been endorsed by you in the Start-up or Innovator programme prior to the 13th April 2023

What happens if an applicant wants to change endorsing body?

Applicants can either remain with their existing Endorsing Body under the legacy provisions or if they wish to change Endorsing Body, they can apply for endorsement under the new arrangements with one of the current Endorsing Bodies operating under the commercial concession.

Applicants cannot switch between Legacy Endorsing Bodies.

2. Requirements for remaining a legacy endorsing body

As of 13 April 2023, endorsing bodies who endorsed individuals on the Start-up and Innovator visa routes became Legacy Endorsing Bodies.

Partnerships with immigration firms are not under any circumstances acceptable and there must be no evidence of conflict of interest with any other external organisation. You must not use your status as a legacy endorsing body to promote any immigration services to applicants. Failure to adhere to this will result in the removal of your organisation's status as a legacy endorsing body.

We will removed endorsing bodies from the Endorsing Body lists if we identify that its key personnel have developed any connection, past or present, with abuse of the immigration system, criminality or other actions or behavior which we consider to be non-conducive to the public good.

All Legacy Endorsing Bodies will have a responsibility to monitor those whom they endorse. The Home Office must be satisfied that your organisation has in place measures to monitor the operation of those you are endorsing and can assess delivery against the objectives as set out in their business plan.

What can a legacy endorsing body charge for?

Please note that immigration fees are strictly regulated by law. There are limitations as to what you can charge endorsees:

You **can** charge endorsees for:

- Any services that you also provide to settled workers (such as office space or mentoring). These **can** include services which endorsees must purchase to be considered for endorsement (such as membership of your programme). In all cases, the charges must be the same for endorsees as for settled workers. (For example, if you charge £500 for settled workers to join your programme, you cannot charge endorsed individuals more than £500 to join your programme.)
- Any additional services that are **not** available to settled workers, providing it is **not** mandatory for individuals to purchase them to be endorsed or to maintain or renew their endorsements. (For example, you may have provided a bespoke mentoring package to help applicants plan their businesses to meet the endorsement criteria for settlement. You could charge for this package, **providing it was not mandatory for your applicants to accept it.**)

You **must not** charge endorsees for:

- Considering or issuing an endorsement, monitoring endorsees in line with Home Office requirements, or any other services directly related to obtaining or maintaining their immigration status.
- Any mandatory requirements to be endorsed or to maintain or renew an endorsement, if those charges do not apply equally to settled workers (such as membership of your programme – see above).

If you intend to take an equity stake in an endorsee's business, you must approach this in the same way as you would when taking an equity stake in the business of a settled worker (who you are not endorsing).

Endorsement places

Endorsement places take the form of secure endorsement reference numbers which you must include in the endorsement letters you issue. This helps to safeguard the categories against fraudulent endorsement letters being issued.

Each secure endorsement reference number is unique to a particular endorsement of a particular individual. It cannot be reused. The endorsement remains valid for 3 months and the individual must use it to make an application for an Innovator Founder visa during this time. If their application is unsuccessful for any reason, they can re-apply using the same endorsement, providing the 3 months has not yet expired.

If, however, an individual fails to make a successful application within 3 months, the endorsement will no longer be valid. You cannot re-use the same secure reference number, either for a fresh endorsement for that individual or to endorse someone else.

Applicants will need a new secure reference number each time you endorse them. For example, if you re-endorse someone so they can apply to extend their stay after 3 years, and then again a year later so they can apply to settle in the UK, they will need a new secure reference number on each occasion.

Requesting places

If you require ERNs for switching extension or settlement applications you should write to the Innovator visa team via the Innovator Route inbox: InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Your request should include:

- the number of further endorsements you require

- the names and prior ERNs used in the prior applications of the individuals you require new ERNs for.
- Confirmation that you have previously been the endorsing body of all those you intend to issue the further ERNs to.

Requests for places will normally be granted, but we reserve the right to turn down a request where we have concerns that a Legacy Endorsing Body is not complying with its monitoring and assessment obligations in line with this guidance. If we do this, we will explain our reasons to you and give you the opportunity to respond.

Managing enquiries

Immigration advisors and existing endorsees should not contact you with queries about immigration rules or policies, but it is likely that they might do. We would not expect you to answer such queries. Please refer them to the published information on gov.uk and to our contact channels. Endorsees can find details of how to contact us at <https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk>, and immigration advisors can contact us BusinessHelpdesk@homeoffice.gov.uk.

If you are in receipt of a high-volume of queries relating to a specific issue, or have any questions as a result of these queries, we would encourage you to contact ourselves at Tier1Reforms@homeoffice.gov.uk to allow us to advise you.

3. Endorsing applicants

Your endorsement will take the form of a letter, including a secure endorsement reference number and the applicant's personal details, as well as confirmation that they meet the endorsement criteria. A suggested template for endorsement letters is set out in **Annex A** of this guidance.

Types of endorsement

There are 4 types of endorsement:

1. Start-up:

from the 13th April 2023 You can no longer issue this endorsement type. This route was for early-stage entrepreneurs. You will need to continue to complete 6- and 12-month checkpoints with any existing Start up visa holders that you have already endorsed.

You can continue to endorse Start up visa holders switching to the Innovator founder route where you were previously the endorser for their Start Up leave if the applicant meets all the wider eligibility requirements for the route.

2. Innovator – new businesses:

Applicants can receive this type of endorsement if they last had leave endorsed by you in the Start-up category and are still pursuing the same business venture as in their Start-up endorsement.

3. Innovator – same business as previous endorsement: You should consider this type of endorsement if the person you are endorsing has previously had leave in either the Start-up or Innovator categories and is still pursuing the same business venture that was assessed in their previous endorsement that led to that grant of leave, or at a contact point with their legacy endorsing body during that grant of leave. They do not need to show they have £50,000 funds for this type of endorsement.

Please note that applicants who were previously endorsed in the Start-up category can be endorsed under either option 2 or 3, depending on which criteria they meet.

4. Innovator – settlement in the UK: You should consider this type of endorsement if the person you are endorsing has spent **at least 3 years** in the Innovator category and has achieved a level of business success which meets the endorsement criteria for settlement. Please note that time spent in the Start-up category does not count towards the 3 years.

The flow chart below sets out the possible pathways for an applicant to progress through the different types of endorsement over time:

Endorsement criteria: Innovator – new businesses

Where an applicant is switching from the Start up route or is applying for further endorsement but has changed their business, your endorsement letter must confirm you have assessed the applicant’s business proposal against the following key criteria:

Innovation	Viability	Scalability
Does the applicant have a genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage?	Is the applicant’s business plan realistic and achievable based on the applicant’s available resources? Does the applicant have, or is actively developing, the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business?	Is there evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national <i>and international</i> markets?

Your endorsement letter must also confirm that you are reasonably satisfied the applicant will spend the majority of their time in the UK working on developing their business ventures and that the applicant is relying on their own business plan. They must have generated the ideas in the plan (or made a significant contribution to those ideas) and must be responsible for executing the plan.

Endorsement criteria: Innovator – same business as previous endorsement

For this type of endorsement to be given, you must have previously endorsed the applicant for a prior Start up or Innovator visa (and this should be their most recent grant of leave). Your endorsement letter must confirm that you are satisfied the applicant has made significant progress in developing their business, as follows:

- The applicant has shown significant achievements, judged against the business plan assessed in their previous endorsement.
- The applicant’s business is registered with Companies House and the applicant is listed as a director or member of that business.
- The business is active and trading.
- The business appears to be sustainable for at least the following 12 months, based on its assets and expected income, weighed against its current and planned expenses.

- The applicant has demonstrated an active key role in the day-to-day management and development of the business

Your endorsement letter must also confirm that you are reasonably satisfied the applicant will continue to spend the majority of their working time in the UK on developing their business ventures and that the applicant is relying on their own business plan. They must have generated the ideas in the plan (or made a significant contribution to those ideas) and must be responsible for executing the plan.

There is no limit to the number of times an applicant can be endorsed for this type of application, but you should expect to see further progress and achievements at each stage, not that the business has merely kept going in the same state as it was when the previous endorsement was given.

Endorsement criteria: Innovator – settlement in the UK

For this type of endorsement to be given, your endorsement letter must confirm that you are satisfied the applicant has made significant progress in developing their business and has made quantifiable achievements. The progress achievements are the same as for endorsements under the “same business” criteria:

Progress	Achievements
<p>All of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has shown significant achievements, judged against the business plan assessed in their previous endorsement. • The applicant’s business is registered with Companies House and the applicant is listed as a director or member of that business. • The business is active and trading. • The business appears to be sustainable for at least the following 12 months, based on its assets and expected income, weighed against its current and planned expenses. • The applicant has demonstrated an active key role in the day-to-day management and development of the business 	<p>At least 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least £50,000 has been invested into the business and actively spent furthering the business plan assessed in the applicant’s previous endorsement. • The number of the business’s customers has at least doubled within the most recent 3 years and is currently higher than the mean number of customers for other UK businesses offering comparable main products or services. • The business has engaged in significant research and development activity and has applied for intellectual property protection in the UK. • The business has generated a minimum annual gross revenue of £1 million in the last full year covered by its accounts. • The business is generating a minimum annual gross revenue of £500,000 in the last full year covered by its accounts, with at least £100,000 from exporting overseas. • The business has created the equivalent of at least 10 full-time jobs for <i>settled workers</i>. • The business has created the equivalent of at least 5 full-time jobs for <i>settled workers</i>, which have an average salary of at least £25,000 a year (gross pay, excluding any expenses).

An applicant may qualify under any combination of 2 of the above criteria, even if they are similar. For example, an applicant will have met 2 criteria if their business has an annual revenue of £1 million, with at least £100,000 from exporting overseas.

An applicant cannot qualify by relying on the same criterion twice. For example, an applicant who has invested £100,000 (2 x £50,000) in their business venture will be considered to have met 1 criterion, not 2 criteria.

If the applicant is relying on the criteria for creating jobs:

- Each for the jobs must have existed for at least 12 months and comply with all relevant UK legislation, including (but not limited to) the National Minimum Wage Regulations in effect at the time and the Working Time Regulations 1998.
- Each of the jobs must involve an average of at least 30 hours of paid work per week. 2 or more-part time jobs that add up to 30 hours per week may be combined to represent the equivalent of a single full-time job, as long as each of the jobs has existed for at least 12 months. However, a single full-time job of more than 30 hours of work per week does not count as more than 1 full-time job.

Where we refer to jobs we mean posts filled, rather than employees. If a single job has been filled over 12 months by different employees at different times, this counts as the job having existed for at least 12 months.

If the applicant is relying on the criteria for research and development and intellectual property you must consider both parts of the requirement, namely that the intellectual property reflects a significant piece of research and development activity.

Applications for patents and registered designs can be used where those filings have necessitated clearly significant new research and design activity. Non R&D focused Intellectual property such as trademarks would not qualify in themselves as these typically relate to product branding rather than significant research and development.

Registered designs will only meet if it can be shown that significant research and development was required to deliver the product, subject to the registered design application. New, but purely aesthetic, product design that does not incorporate any deeper research and development activity would not qualify for the purpose of meeting this criteria.

For innovator teams the same intellectual property **cannot** be relied upon by multiple migrants. Where intellectual property is used in two applications within the same business, each must be able to demonstrate clearly different R&D projects leading to the development of a further product. Each product relied upon must clearly have required significant research and development in its own right and not simply represent a subcomponent of a larger filing relied upon by another team member.”

If the business has other team members who are applying for, or have been granted, this type of endorsement, they cannot share the same means of meeting these

criteria. For example, if 2 applicants are both relying on the requirement to have created 10 jobs, 20 jobs must have been created in total.

How to issue an endorsement

Before you endorse someone, they must give you their consent to allow you to:

- monitor their progress in establishing a business
- share their endorsement letter and other information relating to their business with the Home Office, where this is necessary for you to meet your responsibilities as a legacy endorsing body

We recommend that you ask for this consent in writing and keep a copy for audit purposes

Your endorsement takes the form of an endorsement letter, which you can issue as a formal printed letter or electronically. A suggested template is included at **Annex A** of this guidance.

The endorsement letter must contain:

- (i) Your name as the legacy endorsing body
- (ii) the endorsement reference number, which must be a previously unused reference number from your allocation of places
- (iii) the date of issue (we will only accept visa applications from letters dated within the last 3 months, so you may also wish to include a date of expiry)
- (iv) the applicant's name, date of birth, nationality and passport number
- (v) a short description of the applicant's business venture and the main products or services it provides (or will provide) to its customers
- (vii) confirmation that the applicant's business venture meets the endorsement criteria for the type of endorsement being given (see earlier sections)
- (viii) details of a named contact at your organisation who will verify the contents of the letter to us if requested

When you issue an endorsement letter to an applicant, you must also send an electronic copy to us at StartUpRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk or InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk (depending on the type of endorsement). This is so we can easily verify that the letter is genuine without necessarily having to contact you each time. If you do not send us a copy, the applicant's visa application may be refused.

What if an applicant challenges your decision not to endorse them?

You should ensure your internal considerations and handling are transparent, fair and robust, and that your decisions are in line with this guidance. This should minimise the risk of any challenge to begin with. It is up to you to decide how best to handle a challenge to your endorsement decision. However, we recommend that you offer applicants the opportunity to ask for an internal review of your decision.

To follow best practice, a review should:

- Be led by a member of your organisation who was not directly involved in assessing the original endorsement application
- Consider whether the decision was reached in accordance with the criteria set out in this guidance, as well as any further policies or guidance for applicants that you publish yourselves as a legacy endorsing body
- Consider the relevant facts of the application
- Not consider irrelevant information

Where an applicant is challenging a subjective aspect of the decision (for example, whether their business idea is sufficiently innovative), you do not need to remake that decision entirely. You should check whether the subjective decision that was made was reasonable in light of your and our published policies and guidance.

If an applicant wishes to challenge the visa processes and procedures set out by the Home Office, rather than your own procedures, you should direct their complaint to us.

4. Monitoring and reporting

As well as considering and issuing endorsements, we ask legacy endorsing bodies to take on a few light-touch monitoring and reporting duties.

What are Endorsing Bodies' responsibilities?

We ask you to:

- **Stay in contact** with the business founders you endorse. You can choose to do this as closely as you like but, as a minimum, we ask you to make contact at checkpoints after 6 and 12 months in the Start up route and 12 and 24 months (in the Innovator category). This is to check that they are still making progress with their business ideas.
- **Decide**, at these checkpoints, whether you are satisfied that applicants are continuing to work on their business ventures. They should have demonstrated reasonable progress with their original ideas. If they are no longer pursuing their original business ideas, they must be pursuing new business ideas that are also **innovative, viable** and **scalable**.
- **Withdraw your endorsement** if, at these checkpoints, an applicant has not demonstrated the above. You should also consider withdrawing your endorsement if an applicant misses a checkpoint without your authorisation.
- **Let us know** if you have any reason to believe someone you have endorsed is working in breach of their visa conditions, although we will not ask you to police this actively. We will then investigate appropriately.
- **Keep us informed** if the contact details we should use to get in touch with you change. This is important if we need to update you of any changes.

You should keep a record of key documents which you have used to make any endorsement decisions. These may include copies of:

- Applicants' business plans and your assessments of those plans
- Evidence of any funding which you have confirmed in your endorsements (such as letters from funding providers, bank statements, etc.)
- Records of what you have seen/discussed at checkpoints
- Where relevant, evidence that support the "same business" or "settlement" criteria (such as Companies House printouts, accounts or accounts summaries, evidence of PAYE submissions to HM Revenue & Customs for jobs created, etc.)

We will not normally ask to see these records, but we may do so if we have queries about a particular applicant or as part of our general monitoring of the categories.

Once an applicant achieves settlement in the UK or is no longer taking part in these categories for any other reason (such as leaving the UK or switching into a different visa category), you no longer need to monitor them as a legacy endorsing body. You should, however, keep records of the above for one year after your endorsement ends, unless the Home Office has already seen them.

What happens if you withdraw your endorsement from an individual?

You should consider withdrawing an endorsement if:

- An applicant fails to stay in contact with you as requested.
- You discover that applicant has not been developing their business.
- An endorsed Innovator is working as an employee of another business they are not the director of, in breach of their visa conditions.
- An applicant's business has failed and they do not wish to start another business, or the business they intend to start is not, in your judgement, innovative viable and scalable.

In any of the above scenarios you must e-mail us within 10 working days at StartUpRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk or InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk (as appropriate). You must include the applicant's details and the reason why you are withdrawing your endorsement from them.

If you withdraw an endorsement before a visa application has been granted, that application will be refused.

In most cases, the application will have already been granted and the applicant will already have spent some time on their visa. Once an endorsement has been withdrawn, we will consider curtailing the visa. The final decision for this rests with us. It is an immigration decision that we do not ask legacy endorsing bodies to take on.

We will take account of the particular reason for withdrawing the endorsement in deciding whether to do this with immediate effect, or to allow the individual to retain part of the remaining duration of their visa. If the individual has already passed their last checkpoint with you, and has not broken any of their visa conditions, we may decide not to curtail their visa.

What are the consequences of non-compliance?

We appreciate that legacy endorsing bodies cannot be responsible for everything the individuals they endorse do. If you notify us of any non-compliance by an individual, we will not hold this against you. Poor compliance by individuals in these categories will not affect your ability to hold any other immigration licenses you hold such as Skilled worker or Student Sponsor licenses.

We reserve the right, however, to take action if we see evidence of systemic non-compliance or deliberate immigration abuse by a legacy endorsing body. If this

happens, we will seek to work with you to resolve any issues or concerns. In the unlikely event that this does not resolve the concerns, we may restrict your endorsements or remove you from the lists of endorsing bodies for these categories.

What if you no longer wish to be a legacy endorsing body?

We do not wish to see endorsing bodies withdraw from the routes, and encourage you to discuss any concerns you may have or any further support you need, if you are considering no longer being an endorsing body. Your feedback will help us to improve the routes in future and address any difficulties you are facing.

However, if you do decide at any time that you no longer wish to be an endorsing body, you should contact us at StartupRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk or InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk, and request to be removed from the published lists of legacy endorsing bodies. We will then remove you from the lists the next time they are updated. We will cancel any endorsement reference numbers you have not yet used.

Ceasing to be a legacy endorsing body entirely means withdrawing your endorsement from those individuals you have already endorsed. This may result in their visas being curtailed, as set out above.

We therefore ask that, wherever possible, you continue to act as a legacy endorsing body for individuals you have already endorsed, while no longer accepting applications for new endorsements. We will maintain your details on a published list of legacy endorsing bodies for this purpose, so you should let us know if you decide not to do this. You should also publicise the fact that you will no longer accept new applications.

5. Further information

Contact details

We welcome your feedback on your experience as a legacy endorsing body and any suggestions you may have for improvements to this guidance or Innovator category more generally. We are also happy to answer any questions you have about the category.

If you have any feedback or suggestions relating to any of the endorsement criteria, or anything else set out in this guidance, you can contact our policy team at Tier1reforms@homeoffice.gov.uk.

If you have any practical queries, requests for endorsements or to be removed from the lists of legacy endorsing bodies, you can contact the operational team for these categories at StartupRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk or InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk (as appropriate).

Please note that these e-mail addresses are for legacy endorsing bodies only. Other queries will not receive a reply. Individual applicants and immigration advisors should refer to the information and contact details on the gov.uk website:

- <https://www.gov.uk/innovator-visa>
- <https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk>
- BusinessHelpdesk@homeoffice.gov.uk (for immigration advisors)

Annex A: Endorsement letter templates

This template is provided as an example only. You do not have to use this format, providing your endorsement letters contain all of the necessary information. You are encouraged to include as much relevant information as possible, to assist caseworkers considering an application. Further details regarding an applicant's involvement in a business and how it is demonstrated they are a key/founding member, for example, would be beneficial.

When you issue an endorsement letter, you must send an electronic copy to us at StartUpRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk or InnovatorRoute@homeoffice.gov.uk (depending on the type of endorsement). If you do not, it may lead to an applicant's visa application being refused.

Dear [*applicant's name*]

This letter confirms that you have been endorsed for a UK Innovator visa application.

<u>Applicant's details</u>	
Name:	Nationality:
Date of birth:	Passport number:
<u>Endorsement details</u>	
Endorsement reference number:	
Date of issue:	Date of expiry:
Name of legacy endorsing body:	
Name of authorised person:	
Work address:	
E-mail:	Telephone:

Further details of your endorsement are set out overleaf.

In applying for this endorsement, you consented for an electronic copy of this letter to be sent to the Home Office as part of your visa application process, and agreed to confirm its contents at their request.

Please note that this endorsement letter does not confer any immigration status or right to work in the UK. This letter is only valid for an application made to the Home Office within 3 months from the date of issue Details of how to apply can be found on the gov.uk website.

[Signature of authorised person of the legacy endorsing body]

Further details of endorsement:

Applicant's name:

Names of any entrepreneurial team members who are also being endorsed:

Name of applicant's business:

Business sector:

Short description of the business and its main products or services:

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Short description of the applicant's role in founding the business:

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[COMPLETE / DELETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS AS APPLICABLE]

Type of endorsement: **Innovator (new business)**

Criteria (mandatory)	Y	N
Innovation – The applicant has a genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.		
Short description of how the applicant meets this requirement:		
Viability – The applicant's business plan is realistic and achievable based on the applicant's available resources. The applicant has the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and		

market awareness to successfully run the business described above.		
Short description of how the applicant meets this requirement:		
Scalability – There is evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national and international markets.		
Short description of how the applicant meets this requirement:		
[Name of legacy endorsing body] is satisfied that the applicant will spend their entire working time in the UK on developing business ventures.		
[Name of legacy endorsing body] is satisfied the applicant is either the sole founder of the business or an instrumental member of the founding team, including when the business has already begun trading in the UK.		
[Name of legacy endorsing body] is satisfied the applicant is relying on their own business plan. The applicant must have generated the ideas in the plan (or made a significant contribution to those ideas) and must be responsible for executing the plan.		
[Name of legacy endorsing body] is able to confirm that applicant has sufficient investment funds available to them.		

Type of endorsement: **Innovator (same business as established during their previous endorsed leave)**

Criteria (mandatory)	Y	N
The applicant has shown significant achievements, judged against the business plan assessed in their previous endorsement.		
The applicant, during their previous period of leave and with permission and agreement from [Name of legacy Endorsing Body] , has changed business venture and continued to develop this new business.		
Short description of achievements since previous endorsement:		
The business is registered with Companies House and the applicant is listed as a director or member of that business.		

Companies House number: <input type="text"/>		
The business is active and trading.		
The business appears to be sustainable for at least the following 12 months, based on its assets and expected income, weighed against its current and planned expenses.		
The applicant has demonstrated an active key role in the day-to-day management and development of the business.		
Short description of the applicant's role in the business:		
[Name of legacyendorsing body] is reasonably satisfied the applicant will spend their entire working time in the UK on continuing to develop business ventures.		

Type of endorsement: **Innovator – settlement in the UK**

Criteria (mandatory)	Y	N
The applicant has shown significant achievements, judged against the business plan assessed in their previous endorsement.		
Short description of achievements since previous endorsement:		
The applicant's business is registered with Companies House and the applicant is listed as a director or member of that business. Companies House number: <input type="text"/>		
The business is active and trading.		
The business appears to be sustainable for at least the following 12 months, based on its assets and expected income, weighed against its current and planned expenses.		
The applicant has demonstrated an active key role in the day-to-day management and development of the business.		
Short description of the applicant's role in the business:		
[Name of legacy endorsing body] is reasonably satisfied the applicant will spend their entire working time in the UK on continuing to develop business ventures.		

Criteria (optional, must meet at least 2)	Y	N	Further information
At least £50,000 has been invested into the business and actively spent furthering the business plan assessed in the applicant's previous endorsement.			Amount invested:
The number of the business's customers has at least doubled within the most recent 3 years and is currently higher than the mean number of customers for other UK businesses offering comparable main products or services.			No. of customers:

Criteria (optional, must meet at least 2)	Y	N	Further information
The business has engaged in significant research and development activity and has applied for intellectual property (IP) protection in the UK.			What IP protection has been applied for:
The business has generated a minimum annual revenue of £1 million in the last full year covered by its accounts.			Annual revenue in last accounts:
The business is generating a minimum annual revenue of £500,000 in the last full year covered by its accounts, with at least £100,000 from exporting overseas.			Annual revenue in last accounts: Revenue from exporting overseas:
The business has created the equivalent of at least 10 full-time jobs for settled workers, which have existed for at least 12 months.			Jobs created and salaries:
The business has created the equivalent of at least 5 full-time jobs for settled workers, which have existed for at least 12 months and have a mean salary of at least £25,000 a year (gross pay, excluding any expenses).			Jobs created and salaries:

Any other relevant information: