



MAC Seasonal Workers Call for Evidence: Personal Capacity

1. Introduction

What is the Seasonal Worker visa?

The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme closed in 2013. The Seasonal Workers Pilot began in 2019 and has subsequently turned into the Seasonal Worker visa. The Seasonal Worker visa is a route by which migrant workers can come to the UK to do seasonal horticulture work and poultry production work. Workers on this route for horticulture can stay for a maximum of six months in a 12-month period, with a six-month 'cooling off' period required. Workers on this route for poultry work can stay from the 18th of October until the 31st of December each year.

The Seasonal Worker visa is not a route to settlement, and migrants coming to the UK are not able to bring dependants. To be eligible, you must: be 18 or over, have a certificate of sponsorship, and have enough money to support yourself (unless exempt).

The scheme is administered in the UK by scheme providers, who act as sponsors for the purposes of the scheme and then match migrants with employers in the UK. More information on the route can be found here.

About this project:

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is exploring views on and usage of the Seasonal Worker visa, and how well the route meets the needs of employers, employees and other stakeholders. We are interested in views on anything to do with the Seasonal Worker visa route, for example the economic impact of the scheme, how well the scheme works for employers, how well it protects the welfare of migrants, how the scheme is organised and anything that could be improved about the scheme. One of the ways we will look at this is through this Call for Evidence (CfE). There are three different questionnaires aimed at:

- Employers of migrant workers
- Representative bodies and other organisations (for example research organisations, academics, and associated businesses such as supermarkets); and
- Individuals (for example current/previous employees).

Alongside information we get from this CfE we will look at other data relating to the route, speak to stakeholders, and compare the Seasonal Worker visa to similar routes operating in other countries.

How can you respond?

Our preferred way of receiving your response is through the online version of this questionnaire (this Word version is provided for reference). However, alternatively you can email the MAC inbox mac@homeoffice.gov.uk with your views. If you are emailing the MAC inbox, it would be helpful if you could look through the questionnaire first to see the issues we are interested in. We are also interested in receiving any additional information you would like us to see – either as an attachment at the end of this questionnaire, or emailed directly to the MAC inbox. Many of the questions in this questionnaire are not compulsory and should only be answered if you wish to do so.

This questionnaire will remain open until **19 September 2023**. We really value your input and would find it helpful if you could respond as soon as possible so that we can start considering your views and information.

All identifying and personal information will remain confidential, however aggregated and anonymised information in the form of summary statistics will be published as part of our final report. We will ask your permission to quote from your response, but this will be on an opt-in basis. You can view a full description of our personal data policy here. At any point you may save your response to continue later before submitting.

Nothing you say in this CfE will affect any dealings you may have with the Home Office or any other government departments. The MAC is not an enforcement body and does not share information on who has responded outside the MAC team.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Migration Advisory Committee
mac@homeoffice.gov.uk

2. About you

1. What is your email address? We ask this in case you need to stop completing the questionnaire, so that you can come back to it later. We will not publish your email address and we will not contact you again unless you give us permission.

2. Please tell us why you are responding to this CfE. Please select one.

- If you are/have been a worker from outside the UK who has been in the UK on the Seasonal Worker visa
- If you are a worker from outside the UK who has not been on the Seasonal Worker visa
- If you are/have been a worker who is not on the Seasonal Worker visa
- If you are an employer and would like to provide your personal view which does not represent the views of your organisation (if possible, please fill in the separate questionnaire that is specifically aimed at employers)
- If you are responding for another reason/in another capacity (please tell us why)

3. Nationality

3. What is your nationality?

4. Your overall thoughts on the scheme

4. How well/not well do you think the Seasonal Worker visa currently works for those who come to the UK as a Seasonal Worker? Please give us as much information about your views as you wish.

5. And how well/not well do you think the Seasonal Worker visa currently works for employers? Please give us as much information about your views as you wish.

6. Is there anything that you would change about the Seasonal Worker route? Please tell us and explain why you would change this.

7. To what extent (if at all) do you think it will be possible to fill the jobs currently being done by seasonal workers from the UK workforce in future?

8. To what extent, if at all, do you believe there will continue to be a need for the Seasonal Worker Scheme in the UK?

- The scheme will definitely continue to be needed in future
- The scheme will probably continue to be needed in future
- The scheme will probably not continue to be needed in future
- The scheme will definitely not continue to be needed in future
- Don't know

9. Why do you believe this?

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Seasonal Worker route?

11. Please attach any documents you wish to, or email these to mac@homeoffice.gov.uk

5. Closing questions

We have a few questions which ask about how we use your response to this questionnaire and about contacting you in the future for follow up research. We also ask some questions about you, but you do not have to answer these.

12. In which region / country of the UK do you live? If you live outside of the UK, please state. Please select one.

- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- East of England
- London
- South East
- South West
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Outside of the UK

13. Would you be happy for us to use your words in our report? We will not give your name, say where you work/worked or give any information that shows who you are Please select one.

- Yes
- No

14. Would you be happy for us or Revealing Reality, who are independent research contractors appointed by the MAC, to recontact you in the next 12 months to invite you to take part in follow-up research regarding similar issues covered in this questionnaire? Your answer to this will not affect your employment or your relationship with the UK government. Please select one.

- Yes
- No

15. And would you be willing for us to contact you if we needed to clarify or supplement responses you have given in this questionnaire? Please select one.

- Yes
- No

REFERENCE ONLY - COMPLETE VIA WEB LINK