HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: SO86477 3 November 2026

Dear Home Secretary,

I hope you are well.

In your statement yesterday, which laid out the new path for new arrivals to achieve Earned Settlement, you announced the Government would increase the standard qualifying period for settlement from five years to ten years, as well as changes to the requirement for settlement applicants.

I am fortunate enough that my constituency of Richmond Park is made up of people from across the world, living in the UK on long term visas, on a route to Indefinite Leave to Remain. Many of these people have set up their lives in the UK, building businesses, buying their homes and contributing daily to the local community and economy.

For many of my constituents, this new set of changes will have brought uncertainty to their family lives. These are people who, for years, have followed the rules, only for them to be retroactively changed.

In response to my question in the Chamber, you referred to the consultation to provide assurances that children would not be on different paths to settled status than either of their parents.

However, the contribution thresholds will divide the path to earned status between some married couples, and the consultation response fails to clarify what this means for their offspring.

As such, I would be grateful if you could clarify what the children's path to settled status is in the below scenarios, as I know many of my constituents will need this clarification:

- Will children be eligible for settled status after 5 years in cases where families move to the UK and one parent earns over £50,270, but the other parent earns less than this amount, and their combined household income is less than £100,000, if the children arrive at the same time as their parents and are aged 12 or younger? This would mean that the children are still aged under 18 when the higher earning parent achieves settled status.

- Will children be eligible for settled status after 5 years in cases where families move to the UK and one parent earns over £50,270, but the other parent earns less than this amount, and their combined household income is less than £100,000, if the children arrive at the same time as their parents, and are aged 14 or over? This would mean that the child has already reached adulthood by the time the higher earning parent achieves settled status.

I would appreciate the details of the specific pathways to settled status that the children would have in each of the above scenarios. I am extremely concerned that citizenship status may be denied to people who have grown up in this country and have no roots, links or rights to citizenship in any other country.

I would also like to request clarity on whether transitional arrangements or exemptions could be extended to skilled workers who obtained or applied for their visas before May 2025, similar to the protections being discussed for doctors, nurses, care workers, and teachers? There is a risk that people who moved here to take up high-skilled work on the understanding that their whole family would qualify for ILR at the same time, will decide to move elsewhere now that the rules have changed, and this could leave us with significant skills gaps.

You will of course be aware that the changes confirmed yesterday will lead to the UK becoming a considerably less attractive destination for high-skilled workers and entrepreneurs, and that this will have an impact on our ability to grow new and existing businesses in the way that the government says it wishes to do. According to the IPPR, skilled workers and their adult dependents contribute £115bn more to public finances than they cost over their lifetimes. I would hope that the government will find ways to mitigate this impact - at least for people who have already arrived.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park