



Mr Andrei Savitski

By email to: request-1237783-c6818999@whatdotheyknow.com

7 March 2025

Dear Mr Savitski,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1573721

Thank you for your request dated 11 February to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC holds some of the information you have requested.

In 2024/25, £16 million was provided to 15 regional and sub-regional partnerships for the delivery of the International Recruitment Fund to prevent and respond to exploitative employment practices of internationally recruited care staff.

In response to your request for data relating to the fund, specifically regarding the number of care workers who have contacted their regional partnership in order to access support services and the number of care workers who have been successfully rematched with a new visa sponsor, information is provided in the table below, broken down by regional partnership. The information held is subject to the statement below, which highlights some key considerations that may impact the data. Any conclusions drawn from this data should be made with caution.

Statement on the data held by DHSC:

- We do not hold data on the exact number of international care workers rematched with a new visa sponsor. However, we do hold self-reported data from regional partnerships on international care workers supported into new employment, based on the assumption that each worker has been granted a new visa. It has not been independently verified by DHSC or UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).
- These figures do not provide a complete picture of the number of workers matched into new employment. Initially, the workers were under no obligation to report their employment outcomes back to their region.
- The data on the number of care workers who have contacted their regional partnership does not necessarily represent unique workers as some may have contacted the incorrect regional partnership initially and been redirected to the region in which they live.
- The data on international care workers supported into new employment does not include workers who may have found work themselves after initially contacting their regional partnership.
- The data covers the period from 1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025.

- The five London sub-regional partnerships collate their data and report as one region.
- Regional partnership mailboxes and support offers became operational at different points in time between July and November 2024.

Regional Partnership	Self-reported data by the regional partnerships on the number of international care workers who have contacted the regional partnership for support	Self-reported data by the regional partnerships on the number of international care workers supported into new employment
London	1190	71
South-East England	1115	16
South-West England	296	19
East Midlands	1098	83
West Midlands	827	67
Yorkshire & Humber	620	82
Greater Manchester	618	41
Cheshire & Mersey	144	7
Lancashire, Westmorland & Furness	81	0
North- East England	141	14
East of England	918	21

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you can request we undertake an internal review. If doing so, it would be helpful for you to be explicit which areas of the Freedom of Information response you consider dissatisfactory. Complaints to us should be sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already complained to us about our original response and received our response to your complaint and, if applicable, our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within six weeks of your last substantive contact with us.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

From: Andrei Savitski <request-1237783-c6818999@whatdotheyknow.com>

Sent: 11 February 2025 14:16

To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Number of care workers who accessed support via International Recruitment Fund

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Care workers on the Health and Care Worker visa, whose sponsor had their licence revoked, have been receiving emails from the Home Office, signposting them to their Regional Partnership for support with finding a new visa sponsor. The work of the 16 Regional Partnerships is financed by the International Recruitment Fund (£15 million in 2024/2025).

For each Regional Partnership, could you please provide the total number of care workers (in the circumstances described above) who had:

- 1) Contacted their Regional Partnership in order to access the support services
- 2) Been successfully rematched with a new visa sponsor

If a breakdown is unavailable by Regional Partnership, please provide aggregate figures.

Yours faithfully,

Andrei Savitski

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
request-1237783-c6818999@whatdotheyknow.com