

## Restrictions on the ability of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals to work in the UK

Ahead of Bulgaria and Romania's accession into the EU on 1 January 2007, the Home Secretary, John Reid, has now announced a number of restrictions on migration which will come into effect on 1 January 2007.

From 1 January 2007 the Home Office will be phasing out low-skilled migration schemes for workers from outside the EU. Places on the low-skilled migration schemes will instead be restricted to nationals from Romania and Bulgaria, with the number of places capped at 19,750, and the only sectors open to them will be food processing and agriculture.

Bulgarian and Romanian nationals will still be able to enter under routes such as the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme and the Work Permit Scheme if they satisfy the criteria. In addition students from Bulgaria and Romania studying in the UK will be able to continue to work subject to the conditions of their student visas. Those Bulgarian and Romanian nationals that are self-employed will still be able to work in the UK.

Therefore employers who wish to employ Bulgarian and Romanian nationals are likely to still need to make an application for a work permit or ensure that the individual has Highly Skilled Migrant status. We will update you further once the details of the proposals have been confirmed.

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