

**PQ 157189 asked on 25 June 2018 by Justin Madders, MP (Ellesmere Port and Neston). Answered on 2 July by the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes, MP, Minister of State, Home Office.**

### **Migrant Workers: Allied Health Professions**

Q: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 15 June 2018, Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HCWS768, whether the exemption from inclusion in the cap on Tier 2 visas from non-EU countries for healthcare practitioners will include all allied health professionals; and if he will make a statement.

A: On Friday 15 June, the Government announced changes to the allocation of places within the Tier 2 (General) cap of 20,700. The change – which will be implemented through amended Immigration Rules coming into effect on 6 July – will ensure that all doctors and all nurses needed in the UK will be able to be recruited to work here without being counted against the cap. This is intended to be a temporary change which recognises the importance of alleviating pressure on the NHS and which creates extra space within the cap for other occupations, including allied health professionals.

In parallel, we have asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the full composition of the Shortage Occupation List (SOL). A number of allied health professional roles currently appear on the SOL, for example diagnostic radiographers and paramedics, and are already given priority under the Tier 2 cap.