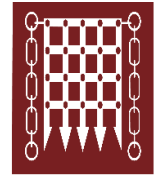


Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:

Next steps for the UK immigration system - policy, settlement, study and workforce routes

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 12th February 2026

Taking place online



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Shuyeb Muquit, Director, UK Government Affairs Strategy, Fragomen
- 9.05 **Examining migration trends and implications for policy**
Gideon Skinner, Senior Director, UK Politics and Public Affairs, Ipsos
Professor Arkadiusz Wiśniowski, Professor, Social Statistics and Demography, University of Manchester
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **'What makes migration systems work? Global good practice and innovation'**
Sam Grundy, Head, Programmes, International Organization for Migration, UK
- 9.40 **Assessing reform to the UK settlement system - framework design, accelerated routes, and implications for households and communities**
proposed extension to qualifying period for Indefinite Leave to Remain | design of the new earned settlement framework | operation of a time adjustment model | addressing concerns around a potential two-tiered system for high and lower income households and essential workers | questions around spousal and family rules and treatment of those reliant on public funds | transitional arrangements for individuals about to qualify for settlement | impact of salary thresholds | metrics for benchmarking contributions | implications for integration and community cohesion | collaboration between education providers, local authorities and community organisations in supporting integration | alignment with human rights obligations and maintaining public confidence in the system
Catherine Houlcroft, Service Lead, No Recourse for Public Funds Network, Islington Council
Josephine Whitaker-Yilmaz, Head, Advocacy, Praxis, for Migrants and Refugees
Shara Pledger, Legal Director, Global Immigration, Pinsent Masons
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **'The future of earned settlement and citizenship: principles, objectives and reforms'**
Marley Morris, Associate Director, Migration, Trade and Communities, Institute for Public Policy Research
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Shuyeb Muquit, Director, UK Government Affairs Strategy, Fragomen
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chair to be announced
- 11.05 **The Temporary Shortage List review, the UK workforce, and skills planning**
Professor Brian Bell, Chair, Migration Advisory Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Changes to the Graduate Route - progression to skilled employment and implications for universities and international students**
James Pitman, Managing Director, UK & Europe, Study Group
- 11.40 **The Skilled Worker route and priorities for employers, recruitment and workforce planning**
avoiding deterrence of skilled workers and assessing the attractiveness of salary thresholds and accelerated settlement routes | tackling workforce shortages across the economy, including in construction, hospitality and social care | attracting and retaining global talent | implications of rising visa fees and wider proposals for migrants, public services, and employers | assessing the potential compliance burden on UK businesses | impact of changes to Skilled Worker routes on integration and workforce planning | interaction with the Migration Advisory Committee's Temporary Shortage List review and enabling businesses to inform future shortage designations | next steps for shortage designations and alignment with longer-term workforce and skills planning
Rico Wojtulewicz, Head, Policy and Market Insight, National Federation of Builders
Shuyeb Muquit, Director, UK Government Affairs Strategy, Fragomen
Patrick Craven, Director, Policy and Strategic Partnerships, City & Guilds
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities and next steps for implementing changes to the UK immigration system**
Claire Smith, Deputy Director, PBS and Economic Migration, Home Office
David Ramsbotham, Deputy Director, Human Rights and Family Unit, Home Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Chair to be announced
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum