Angela Smith MP
House of Commons
London
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Veterinary Surgeons

When I appeared before the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs Select Committee on 28 March, you raised a question regarding the position of Veterinary Surgeons on the Home Office’s Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List. I agreed to write confirming the position.

During my appearance, I asserted to the Committee that Veterinary Surgeons are currently on the Shortage Occupation List. Regrettably, I was incorrect in my understanding of the current position. Veterinary Surgeons, whilst previously included, are not currently on the Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List. They were removed from this list on 14 November 2011, at the recommendation of the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). I apologise for this misunderstanding.

The Shortage Occupation List is based on expert advice from the MAC and is reviewed regularly. Any future inclusion of Veterinary Surgeons on the list would therefore be dependent on a recommendation from the MAC that there is an identified national shortage which it is sensible to fill, at least in part, through immigration. The full Shortage Occupation List is contained in Appendix K of the Immigration Rules, and is available on the Home Office website.

The non-inclusion of Veterinary Surgeons on the Shortage Occupation List does not prevent UK employers from seeking to recruit from abroad. They are however required to conduct a resident labour market test, and to secure a Restricted Certificate of Sponsorship.
I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library and I am copying this letter to Neil Parrish.

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration