



City of London/PwC Proposal for Regional Immigration Policy



Summary

1. The regional visa system proposed by the City of London and PwC would require a total overhaul of the immigration system causing unnecessary confusion and chaos and would place a significant additional bureaucratic and administrative burden on employers, local authorities and UK Visas and Immigration. The system would also be extremely difficult to enforce without severely limiting the freedom of individuals once they arrive in the UK. Moreover, the proposal pays no heed to the wishes of the public to reduce overall net migration as well as low skilled migration specifically. The effect of the proposed policy would be to increase net migration. The proposal permits immigration for low skilled migration, which has, at best, a neutral impact on GDP per head, the UK's fiscal position, productivity and UK-born employment rates.

Introduction

2. The City of London and PwC have proposed that the UK should introduce a regional work permit system to govern the entry of all non-UK nationals for work, including EU nationals once the UK leaves the European Union.¹ This paper outlines the proposal and highlights the problems with the approach.

Proposal

3. The City of London/PwC proposal is for the introduction of regional work permits. This is justified on the basis that the needs of business differ across the country and that a regional approach allows 'the best placed people within the region' to make decisions affecting the community. Wider benefits are said to include regional development by allowing areas outside of London to become more competitive and better integration of migrants.

¹ <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/economic-research-and-information/research-publications/Documents/Research%202016/regional-visas.pdf>