

Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit – implications for Wales

EAAL(5) FOM06
Evidence from Airbus

What is your assessment of the implications for Wales of the UK Government's White Paper proposals on immigration after Brexit?

Impact for Wales will depend on the business sector and certainly for lower skilled and lower paid roles in sectors where the reliance on labour from outside of the UK is significant this would have a detrimental effect on the delivery of key services and industries. Health and agriculture spring to mind
Is there a case for allowing the devolved nations to do things differently in relation to immigration policy after Brexit?

This would need to be based on the UK government salary threshold and the comparative Welsh salaries in the critical sectors. If a salary level in Wales is lower than its equivalent for a role in England and below the threshold there could be a case to manage in isolation. There could also be a case if the impact of the restrictions on specific skills was greater due to the dependency in Wales for non-UK labour.

What are your views on the proposal for a Wales-specific Shortage Occupation List ("SOL") ?

As above (point 2). There would need to be a thorough impact analysis and clarity where the real needs existed and the Welsh economy and people in Wales would suffer.

What are your views on the proposal to bring EU nationals into an expanded Tier 2, and ending any distinction between EU and non-EU workers?

I believe that this would potentially block well established pipelines and leave gaps in the requirements of Wales which can't be filled in the short term.

What are your views on the salary threshold of £30,000 for Tier 2 immigration and its implications for Wales?

This is too high for key sectors in Health care and Agriculture and would leave Wales exposed to failing to deliver key services and maintain key industry

How well is the EU Settlement Scheme operating?

Is there more that the Welsh Government could be doing to ensure that EU nationals resident in Wales are registering under the scheme? From my knowledge and feedback from employees who have gone through the scheme it

is operating well, appears to be user friendly and has given some confidence to non UK employees that they can remain in the country and continue to live and work here. At this moment in time I don't see anything more the Welsh Government should be doing.

Are there any other issues relating to immigration policy after Brexit that you would like to bring to the attention of the Committee?

A main concern is the movement of internal employees across borders in carrying out their day to day tasks as well as developing careers and sharing knowledge and experiences over a longer period of time.