



**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**  
Member of Parliament for St. Helens  
South & Whiston  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

### **Visa Salary Requirements:**

In December 2023, it was announced that the minimum income needed to be eligible for a skilled worker visa, or sponsor a spouse or partner visa, would increase to £38,700 a year. However, shortly after this announcement, the Government stated that the new threshold would initially be set at £29,000 and then increase in stages.

I am aware that fears have been shared that this change for spouse and partner visas could separate British citizens from their loved ones. I am worried that the rise in requirement could lead to an increase in rushed marriages.

It appears to me that the sudden announcement and subsequent change in approach shows a lack of proper plan and a failure to consult on these proposals. I want the Migration Advisory Committee to look into this swiftly and advise on the best approach.

The Government's approach to addressing net migration levels is in disarray and reflects, in my opinion, a policy failure on both immigration and the economy.

I believe that net migration should come down, having reached 745,000 people in 2022. There has been a huge increase in work visas, with over 320,000 work visas granted to main applicants in the year ending June 2023. This is an increase of 144% since 2019. Immigration is important for Britain. It is part of our national story - but I remain concerned that these high numbers are due to a failure to balance recruiting and training home-grown talent with using migrant labour to address short-term labour shortages.

I value the workforce that we have, but I also want to build and create more opportunities for British talent, increasing training and properly tackling shortages. I support an end to the unfair 20% discount on the Shortage Occupation List, which allows employers to recruit from overseas on reduced wages, undermining the going rate. We need a proper plan, with clear links between the immigration system, training, the economy and workforce.

I want to see an immigration system that is fair, affordable, sustainable and, above all, fit for purpose.

**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**

### **Constituency Office:**

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,  
[marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.marierimmer.co.uk](http://www.marierimmer.co.uk)