

Proposed new charges for migrant and visitor access to NHS services

Our NHS is free to all who live in the UK who are ordinarily resident. General practice is free to everyone who lives in the UK. I oppose the proposals to bring in charges for migrants to the UK. Under the proposed restrictions, lots of people living in the UK, migrants and visitors from outside the EU, will be denied free GP services and ineligible patients will be charged systematically for the care they receive.

I believe that these barriers to care will harm individuals' health and the public health, widening health inequalities. Large numbers of workers who work in the NHS on work permits and who work for our social services will have to pay every year to use the NHS. I do not think it is right that those staffing the NHS and social care should have to pay to use it. Permanent residence, which usually only comes after a minimum of 5 years, is not the right test as to who is allowed to use our NHS. The government says it is worried about the cost and scale of so-called health tourism. But last year the NHS says it spent £33 million treating foreign nationals. This is 0.03%, three hundredths of one percent, of the total NHS budget of £110 billion. This £33 million compares to the £16.3 billion migrants and visitors contribute to the UK economy.

I think these charges will promote social division and are aimed at diverting attention from the cuts and privatisation which are the real cause of problems in the NHS. Nye Bevan who set up the NHS in 1948 insisted it should be free to all those living in the UK. Please do everything in your power to keep it that way.



Dear MP

I am writing to you about the proposed new charges in the rules for migrant and visitor access to NHS services.

I hope you will oppose these changes for reasons outlined overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone no:

To:

_____ MP

House of Commons
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Find your MP's name on www.writetothem.com