



Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair, Exiting the EU Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17 July 2019

TRANSITIONAL MIGRATION AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND

Dear Hilary,

I am writing to inform you that the transitional migration agreement reached between the UK and Switzerland was recently signed in London. The agreement provides for temporary migration arrangements for workers in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, and will apply until December 2020.

In his letter of 24 April, Minister Walker informed you that we had reached this agreement.

This agreement is further to the Swiss government's announcement in February 2019, that in a no deal scenario they would create a specific quota of 3,500 work permits for 2019 for UK workers. As part of the transitional migration agreement, Switzerland have also agreed that UK nationals would not need to meet rules regarding skill level, national preference and economic interest which normally apply to third country nationals during the period covered by the agreement. The agreement also includes protections for frontier workers not covered by the UK-Swiss citizens' rights agreement which would allow them to continue cross-border work until 31 December 2020.

The UK has agreed to provide arrangements for Swiss nationals who wish to work in the UK, which are at least as favourable as those offered to UK nationals in Switzerland. In the event of no deal and following the ending of free movement, Swiss and EEA nationals arriving in the UK for the first time would be eligible for European temporary leave to remain. This would allow them to work in the UK for three years.

I am attaching a copy of the agreement and will be placing copies in the Library of the House, along with this letter.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION