

The Rt Hon. the Baroness May of Maidenhead
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

16 June 2025

Dear Baroness May,

**BORDER SECURITY, ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS
SECOND READING**

I am writing further to the debate in the Lords at Second Reading, where you raised the need to prevent abuse of the immigration system, specifically in relation to the Points-Based System (Official Report 2 June column 579). You indicated a reply was outstanding having raised this previously – I am sorry for the delay in writing to you on this point.

I agree with the importance of ensuring an effective immigration system which is protected from abuse. The Points-Based System has moved away from ‘tick box’ criteria and expanded the use of genuineness tests.

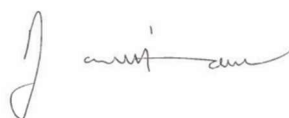
These include greater use of ‘genuine vacancy’ powers to examine whether employers sponsoring workers are truly offering the job they are claiming to. These powers have been used with widespread effect in the social care sector in particular, to tackle sponsor non-compliance issues we have seen there. Caseworkers also have new powers to test whether applicants themselves genuinely intend to, and can, undertake the roles for which they are being sponsored, and do not intend to work in breach of the conditions of their visa.

These tests give decision makers the tools they need to examine and, where necessary, refuse applications which appear to meet the points requirement on initial inspection, but which raise underlying concerns about the applicant and/or their sponsor.

I look forward to further debate of the Bill as it progresses to Committee stage.

I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Hanson of Flint