



Home Office

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Legal Migration
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Felicity Buchan MP
House of Commons
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3 May 2024

Dear Felicity,

Thank you for your email of 8 April 2024, enclosing joint correspondence from Avril Sharp of Kalayaan, and Marissa Begonia, Director of The Voice of Domestic Workers, about the visa provisions for those coming to the UK as a domestic worker. I am replying as the Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border.

As Kalayaan's correspondence alludes to, the Overseas Domestic Worker (ODW) route allows domestic workers to visit the UK with their employer for up to six months. This visa length aligns with that of their employer, who cannot intend to stay for longer than the six-month period and reflects the short-term nature of their time in the UK.

The Immigration Rules are designed to minimise the risk of exploitation. Employers of ODWs must agree the terms and conditions of the ODW's employment in writing as part of the visa application, and they are expected to abide by UK laws, including the National Minimum Wage. Once in the UK, ODWs are free to change their employer without notifying the Home Office; this was introduced to ensure those who need to escape unsuitable conditions can do so quickly and without additional administration.

It is important that potential victims come forward as soon as possible and extending permission to work for ODWs who enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) before their visa expires reinforces that message. This is in addition to the dedicated visa route for domestic workers recognised as victims of modern slavery by the NRM, which allows them to remain in the UK with the ability to work for up to two years.

Further information about the 'Domestic Worker who is a Victim of Modern Slavery' route can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-domestic-worker-visa/victim-slavery-human-trafficking>.

As part of our engagement with the ODW Advisory Group, we are working with expert practitioners, including Kalayaan, to discuss policy and practical options to improve both the support offered to ODWs and the ODW route itself.

We welcome any research that Kalayaan has undertaken and once received this will be considered when implementing future improvements to the visa provisions for ODWs.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write and I trust that this reply is helpful.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border