



Second Reading of the Immigration Bill – Monday 10th February

CHAPTER 2: OTHER SERVICES ETC

National Health Service

Clause 33 Immigration health charge

Clause 34 Related provision: charges for health services

The British Dental Association, Optical Confederation and Pharmacy Voice would like assurances from the Government about how the parts of the Immigration Bill concerned with the NHS (Chapter 2, Clauses 33 and 34) will be implemented.

In particular, we would like the Government to confirm that:

- any independent primary care contractors (including dentist, optometrist, optician or pharmacist) will receive funding for any NHS services they provide under the terms of the Immigration Bill (including where errors with status have occurred).
- primary care professionals will not have to meet the additional costs of checking patients' eligibility for treatment.
- the relevant professional representative bodies will be involved in developing workable and cost effective systems to deliver any plans. Any system developed must be straightforward and not place undue administrative burdens on health professionals' time, taking them away from delivering patient care.
- Any changes will not duplicate systems already in place to check patients' eligibility for NHS care.

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British Dental Association

The British Dental Association (BDA) is the professional association and trade union for dentists in the United Kingdom. Its mission is to:

- promote the interests of its members
- advance the science, arts and ethics of dentistry
- improve the nation's oral health

The BDA represents more than 23,000 members across the UK working in general dental practice, in salaried and hospital positions, in the armed forces and in academia. The BDA's membership also includes dental students.

Optical Confederation

The Optical Confederation represents the 12,000 optometrists, the 6,000 dispensing opticians and 7,000 optical businesses in the UK who provide high quality and accessible eye care services to the whole population. The Confederation is a coalition of the five optical representative bodies: the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO); the Association of Contact Lens Manufacturers (ACLM); the Association of Optometrists (AOP); the Federation of Manufacturing Opticians (FMO) and the Federation of Opticians (FODO). As a Confederation, we work with others to improve eye health for the public good.

Pharmacy Voice

Pharmacy Voice represents community pharmacy businesses with the principal aim of creating an environment enabling community pharmacy to fulfil its potential as a healthcare provider of choice in medicines optimisation, long term conditions and public health. Its founder members are the Association of Independent Multiple pharmacies (AIMp), the Company Chemists' Association (CCA) and the National Pharmacy Association (NPA). Our member associations represent over 11,000 community pharmacies in England.