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其他新聞

英國將徵收移民健康稅 希望每年為國民健保挹注2億英鎊

- 中文

From: 英國貿易文化辦事處 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-trade-cultural-office-taiwan.zh-tw>)

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Part of: 加強英國與台灣間關係 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/priority/strengthening-britains-relationship-with-taiwan.zh-tw>) and 台灣 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/taiwan.zh-tw>)

英國政府預計在未來10年內課徵高達17億英鎊的健康稅，以補助英國國民健康服務體系用於臨時移民的醫療成本。



此項新規定將於4月6日起開始實施，非歐盟經濟區(European Economic Area，簡稱EEA)的民眾，若欲在英國停留超過6個月以上，在提出移民申請時必須繳交「健康稅」。已入境英國的非EEA公民，若申請延長在英國居留時間，也必須繳納此一費用。

目前到英國工作、留學或依親的移民，和永久居民一樣，享有免費英國國民健康服務體系(National Health Service，簡稱NHS)的醫療服務。不過英國去年生效的移民法(Immigration Act)改變現行作法，要求移民對他們所享有的NHS醫療服務做出適當之財務貢獻。據估計，光是在英格蘭，海外遊客和移民每年使用NHS服務的成本就高達20億英鎊，其中9.5億英鎊用於非EEA的臨時勞工和學生身上。

健康稅每年為200英鎊，學生則為每年150英鎊，移民必須在提出申請時付清其獲准在英國停留時間的健康稅費用。英國政府在制定健康稅收取標準時，考量到移民享有廣泛免費健康服務的同時，也應做出有價值之回饋，確保英國能繼續吸引全球最出色優秀的人才。

英國內政部移民與安全事務國務大臣James Brokenshire表示：

「健康稅將扮演不可或缺的角色，確保英國在對所有使用者公平的基礎上，提供最珍貴的公共服務。英國世世代代的民眾繳納稅金，幫助成就今日的NHS；健康稅意味臨時移民也該負擔費用。」

「我們將繼續為所有有需要的人提供健康服務，不過現在來自EEA以外地區的民眾也將公平分攤英國境內臨時移民的健康醫療成本。」

「讓健康稅維持在合理水準，也是我們認為臨時移民對英國經濟有所貢獻的方式。」

英國內政部將把收到的所有健康稅，轉交給英格蘭、威爾斯、蘇格蘭和北愛爾蘭的衛生部門。

前述健康稅的收費水準低於部分其它國家的醫療保險費用，且海外留學生所繳的金額僅相當於在英國攻讀三年大學課程所有費用的1%。眷屬只須繳納和主要移民申請者相同金額的健康稅。移民繳納後，在英國合法居留期間可享有和英國永久居民一樣的李HS服務。

非EEA公民若持觀光簽證入境英國，無須繳交健康稅，但在接受NHS醫療時須全額負擔費用。

除了實施健康稅，英國衛生部也將推出其它措施。從4月起，來自非EEA地區的觀光客若使用NHS服務，將須繳納醫療成本1.5倍的金額。舉例來說，若醫療成本為100英鎊，非EEA公民收到的帳單將是150英鎊。這額外負擔的費用，將支付觀光客就醫時NHS的行政作業成本。

衛生部國務大臣Earl Howe爵士表示：

「我們希望，國際觀光客只要付費，就可自由使用NHS服務，一如英國家庭繳稅後可享有醫療福利一樣。因此我們將確保海外觀光客和移民支付NHS健康醫療費用，並協助NHS工作人員了解收費制度。」

在兩階段的英國簽證線上申請程序中，民眾提出入境英國或延長居留申請的同時，就須繳納健康稅。

健康稅是英國2014年移民法中的重要改革之一。該法是一項以英國政府持續改革措施為基礎的重大立法，以確保移民系統的運作符合國家利益。移民法的焦點是阻止非法移民使用其無權享有的公共服務，減少鼓勵民眾基於錯誤理由而前來英國的誘因，並讓英國內政部能更輕而易舉驅逐不應入境英國的人。欲了解健康稅的進一步資訊，請點擊此處

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-health-surcharge-information-for-migrants>)。

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News story

Migrant 'health surcharge' to raise £200 million a year

- English
- हिंदी (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migrant-health-surcharge-to-raise-200-million-a-year>.hi)

From: Home Office (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>), James Brokenshire MP (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/james-brokenshire>) and UK Visas and Immigration (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>)

First published: 19 March 2015

Part of: Borders and immigration (<https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/borders-and-immigration>)

The government is set to recoup up to £1.7 billion over the next ten years to help pay for the cost of NHS treatment given to temporary migrants.



Legislation coming into effect on 6 April means that nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) coming to the UK for longer than six months will be required to pay a 'health surcharge' when they make their immigration application. It will also be paid by non-EEA nationals already in the UK who apply to extend their stay.

Migrants coming to work, study or join family members currently receive free NHS treatment in the same way as a permanent resident. The changes, part of the Immigration Act which became law last year, will ensure that migrants make a proper financial contribution to the cost of their NHS care. In England alone, use of the NHS by overseas visitors and migrants is estimated to cost up to £2 billion a year – with £950 million of this being spent on temporary, non-EEA workers and students.

The health surcharge will be £200 per year and £150 per year for students, payable upfront and for the total period of time for which migrants are given permission to stay in the UK. In setting the surcharge levels, the government has considered the wide range of free health services available to migrants alongside the valuable contribution they make and the need to ensure the UK remains attractive to the brightest and the best from around the world.

Immigration and Security Minister, James Brokenshire said:

“

The health surcharge will play a vital role in ensuring Britain's most cherished public service is provided on a basis that is fair to all who use it. For generations, the British public have paid their taxes to help make the NHS what it is today – the surcharge will mean temporary migrants will also pay their way.

Our health services will still be available to all those who need them, but now people coming from outside the EEA will make a fair contribution to the costs of healthcare incurred by temporary migrants living in the UK.

And by keeping the surcharge at a competitive level, we are also recognising the contribution temporary migrants make to the wider economy.”

The money collected by the Home Office will be passed to the health departments in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The surcharge levels are lower than the cost of medical insurance required in some of our competitor nations and, for overseas students, the surcharge represents only 1% of the total cost of studying in the UK for a three year undergraduate course. Dependants will generally pay the same amount as the main applicant. Having paid the surcharge, migrants will have the same access to the NHS as a UK permanent resident while their stay in the UK is lawful.

Non-EEA nationals visiting the UK on a tourist visa will not pay the health surcharge, but will continue to be fully liable for the costs of any NHS treatment at the point they receive it.

Alongside the introduction of the health surcharge, the Department of Health is working on proposals that will mean from April non-EEA visitors who use the NHS will be charged 150% of the cost of their treatment. This means that for a £100 procedure, they could be billed £150. This reflects the additional cost burden the NHS carries when managing the administration for visitors to the UK.

Health Minister Lord Howe said:

“ We want international visitors to feel welcome to use the NHS, provided they pay for it — just as families in the UK do through their taxes, so we are making sure that overseas visitors and migrants pay for NHS healthcare and helping NHS staff to understand the charging system.”

Applicants will need to pay the surcharge at the same time they make their immigration application to come to the UK, or to extend their stay, as part of a two stage online process.

The surcharge is one of the key reforms within the Immigration Act 2014. The Act is a landmark piece of legislation which builds on the government's ongoing reforms to make sure the immigration system works in the national interest. The Act is focused on stopping illegal migrants using public services to which they are not entitled, reducing the pull factors which encourage people to come to the UK for the wrong reasons, and making it easier for the Home Office to remove people who should not be here. Further information on the surcharge is available here (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-health-surcharge-information-for-migrants>).

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Home Office

IMMIGRATION HEALTH SURCHARGE

The surcharge will be introduced on 6 April 2015. It will apply to applications where payment is made on or after the 6 April. The health surcharge will be set at £200 a year for temporary migrants and £150 a year for students. Dependants will generally be charged the same amount as their main applicant. The total surcharge amount for the whole period of leave granted will be payable upfront.

Why the surcharge is being introduced

The immigration health surcharge will ensure that temporary, non-EEA migrants coming to the UK for more than six months contribute to the NHS in a manner in line with their immigration status.

The surcharge is not a visa fee. The payment will be collected by the Home Office and it will go directly into the National Health Service (NHS) and will give migrants access to the NHS on the same terms as a permanent UK resident. The surcharge will be set at a competitive rate and will be a lower cost over the period of stay than the cost of even basic private medical insurance.

Private medical insurance for students and working migrants is a common requirement in many of our competitor nations, such as Australia and the USA and the costs there are higher.

Private medical insurance in the UK, which is comparable with healthcare provided by the NHS, is likely to be significantly higher than the proposed surcharge. Basic medical insurance will generally not cover the full range of treatment offered by the NHS, including pre-existing and chronic conditions and treatment for pregnancy. Furthermore, in the case of a medical emergency, it is still the NHS which will be providing treatment.

Who has to pay the surcharge

The health surcharge will be paid by non-EEA nationals who apply to come to the UK to work, study or join family for a time-limited period of more than 6 months. It will also be paid by non-EEA nationals who are already in the UK and apply to extend their stay. Some exemptions to this rule will apply – see below.

Healthcare provided to those who pay the surcharge

Health surcharge payers will be able to access the National Health Service in the same way as a permanent resident, i.e. they will receive NHS care generally free of charge but may be charged for services a permanent resident would also pay for, such as dental treatment and prescription charges in England.

Private healthcare insurance

The health surcharge is mandatory for affected migrants. Some individuals may have private healthcare paid for them, or may decide to take out private healthcare insurance. However, that is a personal decision and they will still need to pay the surcharge.

Private medical insurance in the UK, which is comparable with healthcare provided by the NHS, is likely to be significantly higher than the proposed surcharge. Basic medical insurance will generally not cover the full range of treatment offered by the NHS, including pre-existing and chronic conditions and treatment for pregnancy. Furthermore, in the case of a medical emergency, it is still the NHS which will be providing treatment.

Paying the health surcharge

The health surcharge is payable in full at the time of the immigration application. The charge will be calculated based on the amount of time a migrant would be permitted to stay in the UK under the relevant category in the Immigration Rules.

It is very important that you ensure have paid the surcharge before you submit or send your immigration application. If you choose to attend in person at one of our Premium Service Centres (UK only), please ensure you have paid your surcharge prior to your appointment.

How the surcharge is calculated

The amount payable will be based on the maximum period of time for which permission could be granted under the relevant application route, or according to the length of time stipulated in the certificate of sponsorship or certificate of acceptance of studies. Where the maximum period includes part of a year, a pro-rata payment will be applied. Where this is for six months or less, the amount payable will be half the annual surcharge. Where the period is for more than six months, the full surcharge will be payable.

Australian and New Zealand nationals

The UK has reciprocal healthcare agreements with Australia and New Zealand, whereby visitors and temporary migrants from those countries are entitled to some treatment free of charge on the NHS. In turn, this is reciprocated when our citizens visit there. Australian and New Zealand nationals do not have to pay the surcharge. However you must still go through the process on the surcharge web site where you will be informed your payment is nil. You will receive your unique surcharge reference number which you will need for your immigration application to confirm your exemption.

Intra-company transfers (Tier 2 - skilled workers)

This group of applicants must still go through the process on the surcharge web site. You will be informed the payment is nil but receive a unique surcharge reference number. You will need this for your immigration application to confirm your exemption from the surcharge.

Refunds

If an application is refused you will be automatically refunded without having to take any further action. If you pay the surcharge and are issued with a visa but then decide not to travel, your surcharge payment will not be refunded. The surcharge will also not be partially refunded if you depart the UK before the expiry of your permission to be in the UK, including cases in which the Home Office cuts short permission. The surcharge payment is not refunded if the application does not use the National Health Service.

Impact on immigration application processing times

There is no change to our existing customer service standards and processing times. However, in the event that the correct surcharge is not paid when the immigration application is made, your application will be delayed while the Home Office contacts the applicant and the correct payment is made.

Tourists

Anyone coming to the UK on a tourist visa will not pay the health surcharge. They complete their immigration application as usual and do not need to go through any additional process in relation to the surcharge. They will remain directly chargeable for hospital treatment as is the case now. The Department of Health is working on changes to their charging regulations which will mean that from April non-EEA visitors who use the NHS will be charged 150% of the cost of this treatment. For this group, possession of adequate travel and health insurance is highly recommended.

European Economic Area (EEA) nationals who are coming to the UK for more than six months

The surcharge is only paid by non-EEA nationals who require a visa to enter the UK and are coming to the UK in a non visitor visa category for a time limited period of more than six months.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

The health surcharge applies to those whose intended destination is Scotland, Wales and NI if they are applying under a visa category to which the health surcharge applies.

Exemptions

A summary of exemptions is listed below.

- Visitors, and where the grant of entry clearance (permission to stay in the UK) is for 6 months or less.
- Intra-company transfers (Tier 2 - skilled workers).
- Children under 18 years taken into care or in the care of a local authority.
- Migrants making an application for asylum, humanitarian protection, or a claim that their removal from the United Kingdom would be contrary to article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
- Victims of human trafficking.
- A migrant who applies under the Home Office concession known as the 'destitute domestic violence concession'.
- Dependents of a member of Her Majesty's Forces.
- As a dependant of a member of another country's Forces who is exempt from Immigration Control.
- Those making an immigration application related to an EU obligation, such as an application under the Turkish European Communities Association Agreement, are exempt.
- Nationals of Australia or New Zealand.
- A British Overseas Territory citizen who is the resident of the Falkland Islands.