

# Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2023



## United Kingdom

### Changes to the Expansion Worker and Service Supplier routes

#### Executive summary

On 31 May 2023, the UK's first post-Brexit trade deals with Australia and New Zealand came into effect. As part of the new deals, the UK introduced changes to the [Expansion Worker](#) and [Service Supplier](#) routes.

#### Key developments

The new trade agreements introduced the following changes:

- ▶ *Expansion Worker route*
  - ▶ Applicants who are nationals or permanent residents of Australia and seek to establish a branch or subsidiary of their sponsor group in the UK under the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement are no longer required to have worked outside the UK for the overseas sponsor for a minimum specified period prior to submitting their application. Previously, they were required to have worked outside the UK for the overseas sponsor for at least 12 months.
  - ▶ Australian businesses that seek to expand to the UK under the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement are now exempt from the requirement to have traded overseas for a minimum specified period prior to submitting a sponsor license application. Previously, they were required to have traded overseas for at least three years. Companies that utilize this new exemption can sponsor only one worker at a time.
- ▶ *Service Supplier route*
  - ▶ Permanent residents of Australia and New Zealand who provide [services](#) that are covered under the relevant trade agreements between Australia/New Zealand and

the UK are now eligible to apply under this route. In general, individuals who apply pursuant to this route may remain in the UK for an initial period of up to six months. However, Australian permanent residents may remain in the UK for an initial period of up to 12 months.

- ▶ Applicants who possess [technical qualifications](#) from certain institutions are now considered to have the equivalent of a UK degree and are eligible to apply under this route.

#### Impact on employers

These changes are expected to provide UK employers with greater access to workers from Australia and New Zealand.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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