

Vic Rayner  
Executive Director  
National Care Forum  
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21 October 2019

Dear Vic

**Nursing and Midwifery Council communication plans in relation to EU exit**

You will be aware that we are rapidly approaching the 31 October 2019 when the UK is due to leave the European Union.

As the professional regulator of nurses and midwives in the UK, and nursing associates in England, we know that the professionals on our register or those seeking to join the register may have questions about how an EU exit may impact them and the wider profession.

Nurses, midwives and nursing associates from the EU are a vital part of the health and care workforce, providing care to thousands of people across the United Kingdom. Their commitment and dedication to the delivery of high standards of care is recognised by us and the large number of people they come into contact with each year.

We are writing to update you about:

- What leaving with a deal will mean for registrants and applicants
- What leaving without a deal will mean for registrants and applicants
- How we will be sharing information with registrants and applicants

This information is outlined as an annex to this letter. I hope it provides a helpful overview of what information the NMC will be sharing about how the EU exit may impact current and future registrants from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland.

I would be grateful if you could signpost the nurses, midwives and nursing associates in your networks, or the organisations that employ them to the information on our website if you receive any queries about this.

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[www.nmc.org.uk](http://www.nmc.org.uk)

We are the UK nursing and midwifery regulator. Our role is to protect patients and the public through efficient and effective regulation.  
Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC038362)

If you have any questions about what I have outlined in this letter, please contact the stakeholder relations team at [stakeholders@nmc-uk.org](mailto:stakeholders@nmc-uk.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrea Sutcliffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea Sutcliffe CBE  
Chief Executive and Registrar

# Annex

## What leaving with a deal will mean for registrants and applicants

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, we will enter into a transition period until 31 December 2020. During this period there will be no change to the way that we register nurses, midwives and nursing associates from the EU, EFTA<sup>19</sup> and Switzerland and no change to the way UK registrants can apply for registration in other EU countries.

## What leaving without a deal will mean for registrants and applicants

### Existing registrants

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, there will be no change to the status of nurses, midwives and nursing associates already on our register from the EU, EFTA and from Switzerland. Once on our register, everyone is seen as a 'UK registrant' with no distinguishing differences. All registrants are a valued part of our health and care workforce.

### Existing applications for registration

Applicants who have begun the process of applying for registration by and including the day the UK leaves the EU, and who have paid their assessment fee by this date will be able to carry on their applications as before. These applicants have up to two years to complete their application. If two years pass and the application has not been completed, they will need to submit a new application via the route outlined under 'New applications for registration' below.

Applicants who have begun the process of applying for registration by and including the day the UK leaves the EU but who have not paid their assessment fee by this date will need to pay their fee by 28 November 2019. If these applicants do not pay their fee by 28 November 2019, from 29 November 2019 they will need to submit a new application via the route outlined under 'New applications for registration' below.<sup>20</sup>

### New applications for registration from the EU

The UK Government has introduced legislation that allows us to continue to register applications from EU in the event of a no-deal.

The UK Government has agreed that nurses responsible for general care (adult nurse) and midwives who have a qualification that meets the EU minimum training requirements for automatic recognition<sup>21</sup>, will still be able to have their qualification recognised by us and will not be required to undertake the overseas Test of Competence. However, there will be an increase to the cost of application and

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<sup>19</sup> EFTA countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

<sup>20</sup> These dates may change dependent on when the UK leaves the EU. The dates outlined are based on a 31 October exit date. If required, we will update this information on the relevant areas of our website.

<sup>21</sup> As listed in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC

registration for these applicants of £63. This is because they will be paying the overseas evaluation and registrations fees instead of the former EU fees.

Those applicants who do not meet the requirements for automatic recognition as outlined above (including children's, mental health, learning disabilities nurses and nursing associates) will be required to apply for registration through our overseas registration routes, and will likely be required to sit the Test of Competence. The cost of application and registration for these applicants will increase by £940. This is because they will be paying the overseas evaluation and registration fees and the Test of Competence fees.

### New applications for registration from EFTA nations and Switzerland

Separate arrangements have been put in place for EFTA nations and Switzerland so that we can continue to accept applications from these countries. These applicants are unlikely to meet the automatic recognition requirements and therefore will need to apply for registration through our overseas registration routes, and may be required to sit the Test of Competence.

### **How we will be sharing information with registrants and applicants**

We understand that the information we have outlined above is complex and might prompt further questions from those affected. We will put in place the arrangements below at an appropriate time dependent on how and when the UK leaves the EU.

Website:

- We have published a ['What Brexit means' webpage](#), outlining information on how EU exit may affect registrants and applicants.
- Our [registration webpage](#) will be updated to reflect the new routes that applicants from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland may need to take dependant on their application status and qualifications.
- We will be promoting these pages via our social media channels.

Communication with registrants and applicants directly:

- The day after the UK leaves the EU, we will be writing to nurses, midwives and nursing associates who have joined our register from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland, reassuring them that their registration will not be affected by an EU exit.
- We will also be writing to applicants from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland who have started their applications by and including the day the UK leaves the EU, notifying them of how the EU exit will affect their application.
- The day after the UK leaves the EU, we will write again to nurses, midwives and nursing associates who have joined our register from the EU, EFTA and Switzerland, to reassure them that their registration remains recognised by the NMC and that they are a vital part of the health and social care workforce. We will also share this with Directors of Nursing, asking them to cascade this message.