# Health and Care Visa Applications to UK Plummet by 76% Due to Immigration Rule Changes



The number of applications for health and care visas to the UK has decreased by 76% during the first four months of 2024, compared to the same period last year. The figure fell from 50,900 to 12,400 as a result of recent immigration rule changes announced by Home Secretary James Cleverly in December 2023. These measures included barring social care workers from bringing family members and raising the minimum salary threshold for skilled worker visas to £38,700, effective April 2024. Additionally, restrictions were placed on international students bringing dependants and a more stringent verification process for care worker employers was implemented. Visa applications from students and skilled workers have also seen significant changes. Applications from students decreased by 12%, while those for skilled worker visas increased by 41%, likely due to employers rushing to submit applications before new rules became effective. The Home Office attributes these declines to policy measures aimed at reducing net migration, which reached 745,000 in 2022 and remained high at 670,000 in 2023.