# UK Government Initiative Aims to Employ British Jobseekers in Key Sectors



**UK Government Launches Initiative to Employ British Jobseekers in Key Sectors**

On May 21, 2024, Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride outlined a new initiative aimed at positioning unemployed Britons in jobs historically filled by foreign workers. During a keynote speech, Stride detailed welfare reforms designed to reduce immigration and build an economic model grounded in "British talent."

The initiative includes the formation of a ministerial group that will work to remove hiring obstacles following a crackdown on inexpensive overseas labor. This task force will develop new recruitment drives across sectors facing staff shortages, such as hospitality, care, construction, and manufacturing. The group comprises officials from the Home Office, Treasury, Department for Education, and Department for Business and Trade.

Mr. Stride acknowledged potential recruitment challenges for employers accustomed to relying on migrant workers but emphasized the significant opportunities for domestic jobseekers. The plan will draw from previous initiatives like the HGV driver shortage programs in 2021, utilizing skills "bootcamps" and Jobcentre training schemes.

The move is part of a broader governmental effort to address the UK's rising net migration, which reached 745,000 in 2022. Recent measures by the Home Office include heightened salary thresholds for skilled workers, a ban on overseas care workers bringing family members, and restrictions on international students' family members.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his administration have faced increasing pressure from Conservative MPs to address these immigration figures. Labor and the Liberal Democrats criticized the initiative, citing NHS-related employment issues and calling for more comprehensive solutions.

The latest net migration figures will be released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) tomorrow.