



الهيئة النقابية للأطباء السودانيين  
بالمملكة المتحدة  
**SUDAN DOCTORS' UNION**  
**U.K. BRANCH**

**The Rt Honorable Matt Hancock MP**  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
Email: matt.hancock.mp@parliament.uk

13/04/20

**Request to waive Immigration Health Surcharge imposed on immigrant NHS doctors**

Dear Rt Honorable Matt Hancock MP,  
The Sudanese Doctors' Union UK branch (SDU-UK) has been representing generations of Sudanese Doctors living in UK since 1976.

We appreciate that the whole country (and the world) is going through unprecedented times and hardships to win the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. We also appreciate the huge efforts made by the government to support the NHS and equip its staff. As part of the NHS frontline, we are working tirelessly to help our patients despite being worried and anxious about our loved ones' and our own health.

To help in relieving the anxiety and pressures of immigrant NHS frontline workers, we would like to bring your attention to a matter that has been brought to us by our members. As you may know, all non-EEA immigrant doctors arriving to the UK or changing visa in the UK have to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) in addition to the visa fees. This exerts additional major financial stress on our immigrant frontline NHS

workers. To give you an example, if an immigrant doctor wants to change a visa to start a training program of 5 years and has a family of 2 children, they will have to pay IHS fees for each member of the family. The current fees are £624 for each member per year which will amount to a lump sum of £12,480 that needs to be paid upfront for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 kids). If you add to that the visa fees (4 x £1220 = £4,880), the total will be £17,360.

It is also worth mentioning that immigrant doctors do pay their income tax, superannuation and National Insurance Contributions.

We, therefore, request that you, as Health Secretary of State, and the government urgently consider waiving the IHS fees to help support our frontline immigrant NHS workers who are risking their lives day in and day out along with the rest of NHS workers in the fight against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Kind regards,

**Dr. Sara Abdelgalil**

Consultant Paediatrician  
SDU UK President

**Dr. Husam El-mugamar**

Consultant Microbiologist  
SDU UK Vice President

**Dr. Nabil Mahmoud**

Consultant Psychiatrist  
SDU UK General Secretary

Cc **The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**

Secretary of State for the Home department.

Email: [withammp@parliament.uk](mailto:withammp@parliament.uk)

Cc **BMA**

Email: [support@bma.org.uk](mailto:support@bma.org.uk)

Email: [sdu@sdu.org.uk](mailto:sdu@sdu.org.uk)

[SDU.ORG.UK](http://SDU.ORG.UK)