

## Examples of People Impacted by the Spouse/Partner Visa Rules

### **British/settled women who are forced into single parenting in the UK and who can't meet the new MIR as they juggle parenting, work and homelife**

*For many women who are mums with a non-British husband, they are forced to become single parents as they try to meet a MIR that has now been raised to the threshold half the country doesn't earn whilst looking after their children. Some may be forced to access benefits when their partner could be here working and contributing.*

See Raquel's story: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/visa-fee-uk-home-office-healthcare-surcharge-migrant-spouse-b1109463.html>

### **Young British mum looking to return to the UK after living few years abroad and having to sponsor her partner whilst childcaring and working.**

*For instance, somebody working as an English teacher abroad and then meeting their partner and starting a family with them before deciding to return to the UK for a variety of reasons.*

*When returning to the UK they suddenly realised that the complexities of the UK spouse visa rules, including the fact that only the salary of the British/settled partner will count towards the first application as well as realised the high cost involved with the visa fees.*

See Polly's story: <https://news.sky.com/story/utterly-devastated-government-immigration-plans-tearing-uk-families-apart-13024077>

### **Older people who have found love or found it again later in life**

*Older people who have been able to find love again later on in life whilst living, travelling or working abroad.*

*Due to how strict the rules are it becomes clear to them that their pension won't be enough to meet the MIR to sponsor their foreign-born partner to come to the UK.*

*Even the saving route would be very difficult to meet as from the 11<sup>th</sup> of April they would had to have 88k in their bank account for at least 6 months prior to the application.*

According to Statista the average person in the UK has £11,185 in savings in 2024. Source: <https://www.finder.com/uk/savings-accounts/saving-statistics>  
Analysis conducted by finder.com

See for instance John's story: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/27228737/granddad-meets-philipino-wife-dating-app-spouse-visa/>

### **Young couple who has met either here in the UK or abroad during a period of study / holiday**

*Many young people struggle with meeting the MIR as often their first job just after the university doesn't pay enough for them to be able to sponsor their partner to come here to the UK.*

*The same happens when the young couple meet during a course here in the UK – they then have to meet the MIR in order for the foreign-born student to remain here in the UK if for some reason they are unable to get the graduate visa to remain in the UK after their studies.*

See Andrew and Stephanie's story: <https://www.ft.com/content/cfdcc5e9-e649-461e-b546-34aa00a4776e>

### **Family life put on hold**

*Many young couples/women have to put family life on hold as they try to navigate these harsh rules.*

*In some cases, the parent stuck abroad misses the most important moments of their children's childhood and instead of being present for their family has to fight each step of the way with the Home Office which is always suspicious of them.*

See for instance David and Rebecca's story: <https://metro.co.uk/2024/04/11/im-a-stranger-children-wife-earns-29-000-2-20628622/>

### **Exiled (example of social care impact) → they got their vote back in early February**

People who want to return to the UK with their family to care for their elderly parents but are block from doing so due to the extremely harsh rules.

Some of them have been living outside of the UK for more than 15 years and only recently they were re-enfranchised following the [SI on overseas voting regulations](#).

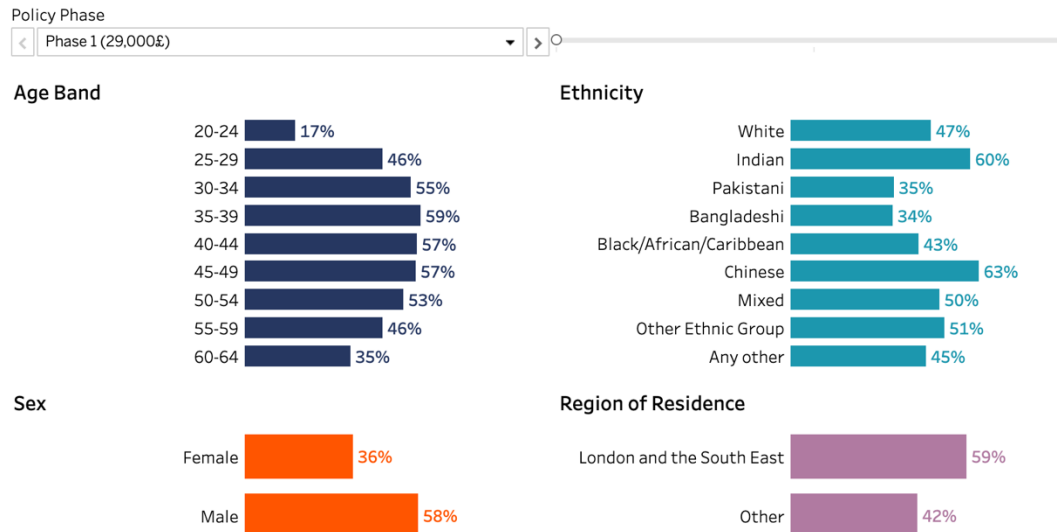
See for instance Sarah Douglas' story (she is originally from the Scottish Borders) <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-family-visa-changes-salary-uk-petition-downing-street-runite-families-b1138902.html>

### **Same sex couples**

See Colin's story as a good example of this: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/family-visa-uk-salary-change-increase-threshold-home-office-james-cleverly-b1150671.html>

## People living outside of London and the South East in particular or belonging to specific ethnicities.

### Percentage of employees who meet the new income threshold by policy phase and sociodemographic characteristics



Source: Migration Observatory analysis of the Annual Population Survey, YE 2022.

Notes: These data refer to all UK residents and may include people who are not eligible to sponsor someone for a family visa due to their immigration status (i.e. they are not UK citizens or permanent residents). Some residents of communal establishments are excluded from the coverage of this survey. The estimates come with a margin of error, which is not shown. APS figures correspond to employees aged between 16 and 64 years old.



## Even civil servants in some pay bands won't meet the MIR

Such as:

- An NHS employee working below Band 5, or in Band 5 with less than two years' tenure,
- Junior Home Office staff,
- Legal aid solicitors,
- Trainees in the legal field who the Law Society recommends are paid £26,068 in London, and £23,122 outside of London,
- Teachers like Raquel