

What's with immigration policies in the UK today? – Main elements to remember from the videos

James Cleverly's five-point immigration plan:

- Net migration from the EU plummeted since the Brexit referendum while net migration from outside the EU soared and peaked in 2022 to 750 000 people (though immigration was one of the reasons for Brexit in the first place)
- Point 1: end the abuse of the health and care visa. They will stop overseas care workers from bringing family dependants and require care firms in England to be regulated by a Care Quality Commission to sponsor visas. 120 000 dependants accompanied 100 000 care workers in 2023. Only 25% of them are estimated to be in work, meaning most are drawing on public services rather than helping to grow the economy.
- Point 2: A big increase in the default minimum base salary threshold for Points Based System Skilled Workers from $\text{£}26,200$ to $\text{£}38,700$
- Point 3: A review of the future of the "shortage occupation list" which currently enables a 20% reduction in the minimum salary threshold for health and care workers. It will be replaced by a new Immigration Salary List.
- Point 4: The Government will raise the income needed to bring family into the UK to $\text{£}38,700$
- Point 5: Around 153,000 visas were granted to dependants of sponsored students in the year ending September 2023. They will review the graduate visa route. From January 2024, the right for international students to bring dependants will be removed unless they are on postgraduate courses designated as a research programme. They have also stopped international students from switching out of the student route into work routes before their studies have been completed.
- Government mantra: stop the boats, cut the visas

The Rwanda scheme:

- Rishi Sunak's Rwanda bill aims to override legal challenges to sending asylum seekers to Rwanda > part of a scheme to take back the control of the borders

- Highly contested policy while at the same time Government under pressure to keep immigration numbers down
- Question of those who arrive illegally in small boats to England's Southern shores.
- The Rwanda scheme, agreed in April 2022 by then Prime Minister Boris Johnson, sends anyone who arrives illegally to Britain in January of the same year to Rwanda. However, European judges blocked the first deportation flight in June 2022. The UK Supreme Court upheld a ruling that the scheme was unlawful and said migrants were at risk of being sent back to their homelands or to countries where they could risk being mistreated.
- Although nobody has been deported yet, Britain has already paid Rwanda \$300 million and while London hopes to send to Rwanda thousands of migrants, at the moment the East African country has the capacity to only take a few hundreds.