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LIVERPOOL HEALTH
AUTHORITY

RECEIVED

30 JUN 1988

CENTRAL REGISTRY

Regional General Managers
District General Managers
General Managers of the Special Health
Authorities for the London Postgraduate
Teaching Hospitals

Your reference

Our reference EL(88)P/94

Date

June '88

Dear General Manager

WORK PERMITS FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STAFF

1. Following discussions with the Home Office (HO) and the Department of Employment (DE) concerning complaints from health authorities about delays in obtaining work permits for nursing and midwifery staff both Departments have agreed that in view of the nurse recruitment difficulties they would try to ensure that applications were processed as speedily as possible.

2. For its part the DE has made a number of concessions to the procedures associated with the operation of the work permit scheme. (See paragraph 4(ii)).

3. It appears, however, that some of the reported delays are due to health authorities not following the prescribed procedures when applying for work permits. The DE has recently revised the "Guide for Employers - Employment of overseas workers in the United Kingdom" (form OW5) and the "application to employ an overseas worker" (form OW1). Staff unfamiliar with the procedures may find the enclosed forms helpful.

4. When submitting applications for work permits it is important to ensure that:

i) applications to enable student nurses and midwives training in the UK to continue in employment after qualifying are sent to the HO. In order to assist the HO in identifying these applications at an early stage they should, in the first instance, be sent to them addressed as follows:

The Under Secretary of State
Immigration and Nationality Department
Post Room Nursing/Midwife Application Section
Home Office
Lunar House
Wellesley Road
CROYDON
CR9 2BY

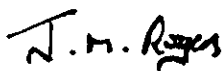
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ii) evidence that the post in question has been advertised is enclosed with the application. Posts are normally required to be advertised in the national press, a trade/professional journal and through a job centre during the 3 months prior to the application for a work permit being submitted. But as a concession the DE are only asking for nursing and midwifery posts to have been advertised in a nursing journal in the 5 months prior to the date of the application. As a further concession DE has waived the need for job centre advertising for all nursing and midwifery posts in the Greater London area and for those in midwifery, mental illness and mental handicap nursing and those requiring a post basic qualification and/or relevant experience in A and E, operating departments, adult and paediatric intensive care, coronary and renal care and neonatal units in the UK.

5. Copies of this letter and forms OW5 and OW1 are enclosed for your Nursing Officer/DNA and the relevant Personnel Director/Officer. Further copies may be obtained from Job Centres.

6. Should you require any further information on the contents of this letter, please contact Miss S.Jarvis on extension 3026.

Yours sincerely,



J.M. Rogers
Assistant Secretary