

THE IMPACT OF REMOVING THE UNRESTRICTED RIGHT OF DEPENDANTS TO WORK IN THE UK

- Further comments from our survey of Tier 2 visa holders and their partners

This appendix should be read in conjunction with our [report to the UK Migration Advisory Committee](#) (MAC) on the impact of removing the unrestricted right of Tier 2 visa dependants to work in the UK.

Permits Foundation conducted a survey of over 1,000 Tier 2 visa employees and their partners to gather data and opinions to include in our submission to the MAC. Just over half of the respondents had partners who were also working in the UK. The large majority (77%) said they would have been unlikely to accept their current assignment if their partner did not have the right to work in the UK.

Below, we list the relatively few comments from the 23% of respondent who answered 'definitely or probably yes' to the question: "If your spouse or partner did not have the right to work in the UK when you were considering the transfer, would you have accepted the current assignment?"

The most common reasons employees give are that the partner does not work so that they can look after the children, that they are not pursuing a career (at present) or that they can manage on one salary.

Occasionally, we have removed a word or two that identified a particular organisation, sector, or profession where we felt that anonymity, which had assured in the survey, might be at risk. This is indicated in the text by [...].

Q: "If your spouse or partner did not have the right to work in the UK when you were considering the transfer, would you have accepted the current assignment?"

A: Would definitely or probably have accepted the assignment:

"My spouse made a conscious choice not to pursue an active career some years ago, as we have moved every 3 to 4 years. In addition, we have had 2 children along the way and she wanted to spend more time with them when they were younger. So, whilst she wants to find productive work, it is now a bit difficult, despite having good academic and professional qualifications - [...].with an MBA."

"My spouse is a homemaker."

"My wife wasn't working when we accepted the London transfer, so not being able to work in the UK was not a big deal for us."

"My wife has not worked for many years."

"I do not have a spouse or partner. If I did have one, I would still accept the current assignment, even if they did not have the right to work.."

I had just completed my masters program and was single at the time I got my job offer. If I had a partner, I would have probably considered it.

"My spouse's ability to work wasn't my main condition to come to the UK. I would have come anyway."

"We have 3 children, so my wife is completely occupied by family."

"My spouse was pregnant; hence she would not be able to work for some time."

"He has a job in our home country."

"My spouse has chosen not to work in the UK as she prefers looking after the children and family home. One income is enough for our family. Having both parents working would have put additional strain on the family dynamic, so this is a choice we've made since it suits our family. My spouse is not motivated by career advancement, her focus being the family."

"I wouldn't say that I would have rejected the offer but the fact that my spouse had the right to work made the UK a better option than all the other possible locations at that time."

"I am working with [...] for almost 21 years now, since I joined [...] due to mobility (from one location to another), it was not possible to be in the same place as my fiancée (she was working also), later my wife. Then we decided I will keep working and she will be my companion wherever I go. It is not a requirement for her to work; especially now we have couple kids to raise as well."

"My wife wasn't working before we moved to the UK, so this was not a priority for us."

"Yes, my wife is a housewife and she is not going to work anyway."

"I am okay if my wife/spouse doesn't have job".

"We were surprised that my partner would have the right to work in the UK immediately; we'd have expected to have to wait/apply for a work permit separately. We came to the UK for my job, and still would have done so even if my partner couldn't work immediately on arrival."

"I would have [accepted] as I have a career path to follow. However, I would have only accepted the job because I knew that my wife could either find a job here on her own or can also get a dependent visa and find work while I am here."

"Dependent's right is a restriction in the US too on H1 B visa and I think this doesn't deter anyone who fancies moving to the US for work... It doesn't stop employees moving to US, why would it stop them moving to the UK?"

"My spouse has dual citizenship (including British) so this was not an issue, however the right to work has not impacted my decision to work on assignment in other countries."

"Partner does not currently work, although the option would have been nice."

"My wife did not need to work and, indeed, could not work based on our children's situation."

"Working with [...] in different places, it has been difficult for my wife to work especially considering we have small children, so for us it is not critical if she cannot work."

"I'm just not expecting my spouse to work in every country where my company places me. My earnings are enough to maintain my family."

"My husband is commuting every month to our home country as he has his own business there."

"My wife does not work anyway."

"I have never had a partner with no right to work in the UK. Myself, I always have a visa that enables me to work."

"Spouse needs to take care of children. No time to work."

"My wife wasn't working in my previous country of assignment due to visa issues."

"Cost of living in the UK for expats, who have to rent property and accommodate children in childcare facilities - in most cases is higher than the spouse/partner's possible income, therefore having a single working parent is at times more beneficial both financially and lifestyle wise."

"My spouse has been a stay-home dad for a couple of years already."

"We moved at a time when it was our preference for my wife to stay at home and ensure that our children had adequate support through school, etc. However, now that this is over, it would be a huge benefit to work gainfully."

"I would probably still accept the job. Because, my wife would not look for job for at least a year to take care of our 1 year old baby. However, I would always look to moving out of the UK once she is ready for a job."

"As my spouse is still looking after our toddler. Would have been a 'no' if our child had already started school."

"Only for the duration of acquiring a Masters/PhD, after which we will leave the UK if there isn't a work permit for my spouse."

"My income is sufficient to support my spouse."

"He is also a NZ citizen so would not have been a problem for him to apply for a youth mobility visa."

"I don't currently have a partner, so I just imagine that I would probably accept the offer even if my partner didn't have the right to work."

"The career progression, experience and extra income from my partner is really important. I would probably get the transfer but I will consider different options first."

"The income my wife generates from here employment in the UK is not significant enough to be a decision factor."

"My spouse had to stop working since we had a second child and no plans for her to start working again."

"She is currently a homemaker raising our young kids, so she was not actively looking for a job as part of the assignment."

"We didn't have high expectations on that subject as learning the language and completing an MBA were the priorities. In different circumstances, the impact would have been a lot more important."

"My wife was pregnant at the time we were transferring, so her working was not in the current short-term plan. However, not being allowed to work is very limiting. Plans can change and this flexibility is essential."

"Spouse's income is not critical to the household."

"My partner is currently not working, and may or may not take employment in the future. This will be dependent on whether an appropriate position is available, and if we determine that she wants to work. "

"My overseas assignment is for less than 12 months only. I would have not considered it if the assignment was for more than 12 months."

"My spouse is not working at the moment. However, having the flexibility to be able to work is important."