23 March 2020

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr Boris Johnson

Prime Minister’s Office

10 Downing Street

London SW1A 2AA

 Dear Prime Minister,

 **Health Surcharge for overseas workers**

We write to you to draw your attention to the issue of health surcharge for overseas workers which was introduced in 2015 and now it will extend to EU workers when we have completely exited from Europe. Sadly, despite many organisations including ours raising it many times, instead of it being removed, it has been increased twice, now amounting to £4800 per year for family of four. We believe that this surcharge is discriminatory and unfair, as the overseas workers are already paying their due share of National Insurance contributions, superannuation and income tax.

We request you to remove the health surcharge with immediate effect. The NHS has been in a workforce crisis for several years, but now with the COVID-19 epidemic, there has never been a worse time for an overstrained service, and we require all the help we can get to meet the challenges.

Prime Minister, you will be aware after all the struggles that international medical graduates and overseas nurses have had to endure, that many of them feel undervalued, despite their loyalty to the NHS. The health surcharge adds a significant financial burden on new arrivals, and it is a disincentive to those whom we seek to recruit from abroad. By removing this, the government will demonstrate the genuineness of their caring attitude towards frontline staff.

We would be delighted to meet with you, or other officials in government, to make the case further if it helps.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ramesh Mehta OBE   Dr JS Bamrah CBE                       Prof Parag Singhal

cc: The Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock, Health Secretary

cc: The Rt. Hon. Priti Patel, Home Secretary