



# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) BRIEFING: TIER 1 (ENTREPRENEURS), INNOVATORS AND START-UPS AND GLOBAL TALENT

On 3 April 2020, by way of further update to the guidance published on 24 March, the Home Office provided the following concessions to Tier 1 (Entrepreneurs), Innovators, Start-ups and Global Talent Visa applicants whose plans and/or businesses have been disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **TIER 1 (ENTREPRENEUR)**

The Home Office has introduced concessions for Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa holders whose businesses face disruption and the need to furlough workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa holders no longer need to employ at least 2 people for 12 consecutive months each. The 12-month period that they are required to employ someone can be made up of multiple jobs across different months however, time when employees are on furlough will not count toward the 12-month period.

Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa holders will be allowed to temporarily extend their visas if they have been unable to employ staff for 12 months due to Covid-19 disruptions.

These concessions will continue and apply to future applications where the jobs the entrepreneur relies upon were disrupted due to Covid-19.

## **INNOVATORS, START-UPS AND GLOBAL TALENT VISA APPLICANTS**

The Home Office has stated that if an endorsement from an endorsing body has expired because the applicant has not been able to travel to the UK, they may still be eligible for a visa. Applicants should make the application as planned it will be considered on a case by case basis.

There is no further guidance published on how discretion in such circumstances will be applied and whether the endorsing body will need to issue further evidence of continued endorsement.

We understand that the Home Office will take a pragmatic approach to these issues and the Home Office and its ministers have now stated several times that no one will be adversely impacted from an immigration standpoint due to Covid-19 and circumstances outside of their control.

This policy, as with all COVID-19 immigration policies and guidance, is evolving and is frequently updated. This document is current as at 15 June 2020. For specific advice and up to date information, please contact a member of the Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP immigration team: [immigration.enquiries@penningtonslaw.com](mailto:immigration.enquiries@penningtonslaw.com).