

**DATA CHART**

# Doctors from other European countries make up 9% of the UK medical workforce

**D**octors who qualified in other European countries make up 9% of those on the UK medical register, data released by the GMC show.

The GMC's report, *The State of Medical Education and Practice in the UK: 2017*, shows that in some secondary care specialties over a quarter of registered doctors qualified outside the UK and more than one in eight qualified in other European countries. For instance, in ophthalmology 547 of the 1157 UK registered doctors working in the specialty (25%) qualified in other European countries. In surgery the figure is 19% and across obstetrics and gynaecology, pathology, and radiology it is 14%.

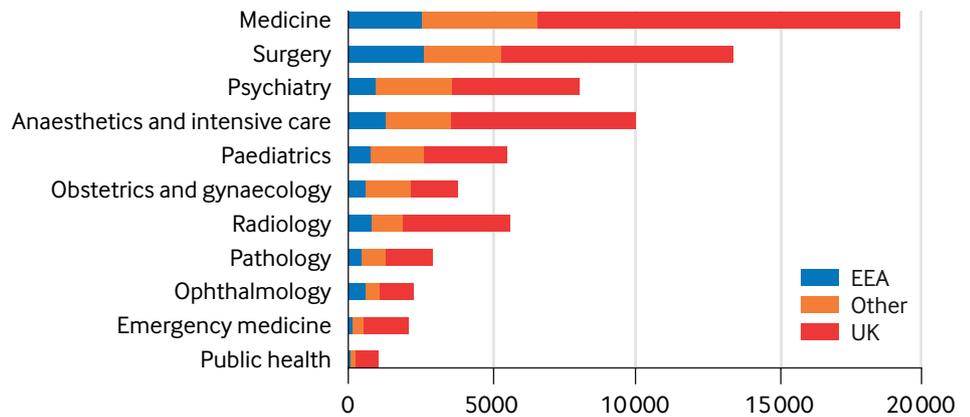
The GMC's report shows that, in total, 78 611 of the 236 732 doctors on the UK's medical register (33%) qualified in other countries. Of these, 21 609 (9%) qualified in other European Economic Area countries and 57 002 (24%) qualified outside the EEA.

In November 2017, NHS Providers, which represents NHS trusts, warned that continuing uncertainty over the recruitment of staff from other countries as the UK prepares to leave the EU was threatening the provision of safe, high quality care in the NHS. The organisation said that domestic "quick fixes" are not an option for solving severe workforce shortages in the NHS, and that any significant reduction in the number of overseas staff in the next few years would have a "serious and damaging impact" on services.

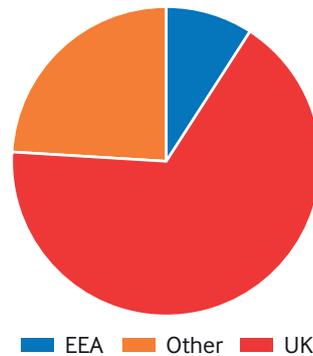
From 2012 to 2017, the number of doctors from overseas registered in the UK fell by 7.4%, GMC data show. Their number fell from 84 896 in 2012 (when they represented 37% of doctors registered in the UK) to 78 611 in 2017 (when they represented 33% of UK registered doctors). Over this period, the number of doctors who qualified in other EEA countries fell by 6.2% from 22 967 to 21 609.

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## EUROPEAN AND OVERSEAS DOCTOR NUMBERS



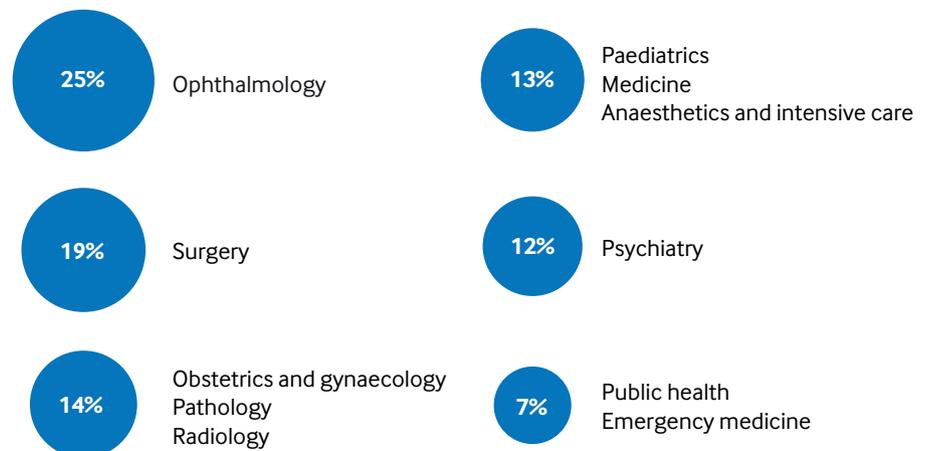
## WHERE UK REGISTERED DOCTORS QUALIFIED



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## PROPORTION OF UK REGISTERED DOCTORS WHO QUALIFIED IN OTHER EEA COUNTRIES



Source: GMC "The state of medical education and practice in the UK: 2017"



Zulfiqar Bhutta, 62, is an energetic and peripatetic paediatrician who has made child health and nutrition his life's work. Born at the foot of the Khyber Pass, he trained in Peshawar, in Bristol, and at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, deciding early on that newborn medicine needed the world's attention. Returning home, he visited remote and risky corners of Pakistan to pioneer community based care strategies. He is founder-director of the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at the Aga Khan University and at its global campuses, combining this with a chair at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. He recently shared (with Samiran Nundy) the BMJ South Asia Award for outstanding achievement, and is a member of *The BMJ's* Editorial Board

## BMJ CONFIDENTIAL

# Zulfiqar Bhutta A better world for children

### What was your earliest ambition?

To lead a global revolution. Growing up in the restive 1960s, the premise that youth could change the world seemed both real and achievable.

### What was your best career move?

Moving from a tertiary care hospital practice to establish a community/public health and outreach programme in various parts of rural Pakistan.

### What was the worst mistake in your career?

Accepting the opening batsman position in my high school cricket team: a sequence of ducks followed that my friends will never let me outlive.

### How is your work-life balance?

Terrible, and it's a regular focus of my New Year resolutions.

### How do you keep fit and healthy?

Running whenever I can and eating healthily, although my travel schedule around the globe makes this increasingly difficult.

### What do you wish that you had known when you were younger?

That the best things in life are those that money can't buy.

### Do doctors get paid enough?

Some do, and some more than enough. In many other circumstances, especially in low income settings, doctors are paid far less than they deserve.

### To whom would you most like to apologise?

To my dear wife, Shereen, for having lumbered her over the years with the burden of raising a family almost singlehandedly, dealing with my frequent absences while she nurtured and supported an amazing academic career herself.

### What is the worst job you have done?

As an aspiring young academic, serving in a protocol job at a global scientific assembly. Dealing with big egos in science was a nightmare.

### What single change has made the most difference in your field?

I'd single out knowledge syntheses and evidence based practice of medicine.

### What new technology or development are you most looking forward to?

Teleportation—it would make my life a whole lot easier.

### What book should every doctor read?

*Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande.

### What is your guiltiest pleasure?

Listening to old Urdu/Hindi songs, with a handkerchief to hand.

### Where are or when were you happiest?

In Peshawar: despite its rustic nature and reputation for insecurity, my annual visits recharge my batteries and reaffirm my faith in the importance of one's roots.

### What television programmes do you like?

Sci-fi programmes. As a lifetime Trekkie and someone who's seen many technologies become real, I'm just waiting for Leonard "Bones" McCoy's handheld scanner to appear on Amazon.

### What is your pet hate?

Insincerity and doublespeak.

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