Foreign Investors *for* Britain

“Britain needs open-heart surgery. This Budget offers a hair straightener.”

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FIFB warns of missed £225 billion investment opportunity: “The Chancellor asks where Britain is going. He should ask where its investors are going.”

Foreign Investors for Britain (FIFB) today described the Budget as a missed opportunity to compete for international investment, calling for urgent consultation on a Global Investor Visa and an internationally competitive tax framework.

FIFB estimates that its proposal could generate more than £225 billion in investment and wider economic benefits over ten years, subject to validation. It warned that changes to graduate, talent and skilled-worker visas do not constitute a dedicated investor route.

Leslie MacLeod-Miller, FIFB Chief Executive, said:

“The Chancellor asks where Britain is going. He should also ask where its investors are going—and why competing countries are winning their business.

“Talking about British competitiveness does not make Britain competitive. Where is the offer that gives international entrepreneurs a compelling reason to choose Britain over Italy, Greece or the UAE?

“The Chancellor speaks of seizing global opportunities and offering fresh hope. But international investors operate in the real world. They make decisions on tax, risk and certainty—not slogans.

“Hope is not a tax policy. Our tax system needs open-heart surgery. This Budget offers a hair straightener.”

Talent measures are not an investor strategy

The Budget’s announced visa changes include:

Expanding High Potential Individual eligibility to the top 150 global institutions, with a proportional increase to the cap.

A two-year Graduate visa for graduates of qualifying high-compliance universities with strong labour-market outcomes.

Expanding potential host organisations under Global Talent's endorsed-funder pathway by spring 2027.

Changes to skilled-worker salary requirements and visa-curtailment arrangements.

MacLeod-Miller said:

"These are changes to talent and employment routes. They are not a Global Investor Visa. Ministers must not confuse a talent policy with an investment strategy.

"Britain needs talented people. It also needs the capital that backs their ideas, builds their businesses and creates their jobs.

"Expanding university eligibility and changing employment-visa rules does not answer an entrepreneur's fundamental question: why should I bring my capital, my business and my family to Britain?"

A £225 billion opportunity—not another promise

FIFB's proposed framework would require qualifying participants to invest at least £2.5 million in qualifying UK investments and make a proposed £200,000 annual contribution to HMRC for up to 15 tax years, alongside ordinary taxation of UK-source income and gains. In return, participants would receive defined protections for qualifying foreign income, gains and genuinely non-UK assets, subject to rigorous due diligence and continuing compliance.

MacLeod-Miller said:

"The Chancellor is looking for money for defence and social care. He should also be looking at the investment Britain is failing to attract.

"FIFB has put forward a proposal with the potential to generate more than £225 billion in investment and wider economic benefits over ten years. That deserves serious examination—not another Budget without a dedicated investor route.

"This is not £225 billion of Treasury receipts or a guaranteed return. But productive investment, substantial annual contributions and a broader tax base are precisely how Britain builds the capacity to fund its priorities.

“The Government cannot keep asking how to pay for stronger defence and better care while overlooking a practical proposal to attract capital and strengthen the economy.

“These are small measures against a structural challenge. Kicking the can down the road is not a growth strategy.”

Keep investors here—and give those who left a reason to return

FIFB called on the Treasury and Home Office to work together on a time-limited consultation covering qualifying existing residents, returning investors and new arrivals, including eligible people who do not require a visa.

MacLeod-Miller said:

“A visa alone will not fix an uncompetitive tax regime. The Government must work with FIFB to design an international tax offer that retains investors and gives those who left following the removal of non-dom protections a credible reason to return.

“This is not about a free pass. It is about substantial investment and substantial annual contributions in exchange for clear rules, rigorous safeguards and long-term certainty.

“Of course those with the broadest shoulders should contribute. But the broadest shoulders often have the longest legs. The task is to secure their contribution—not assume they have nowhere else to go.

“We also urge the Treasury to examine targeted arrangements for American investors, learning from France’s treaty treatment of certain US-source income and assessing how Britain can compete more effectively for American talent and capital. That assessment should form part of the consultation on the Global Investor Visa and its associated tax framework.

“Consult now. Test the numbers. Set a timetable for action.

“We cannot welcome tomorrow’s entrepreneurs while losing those already here.

“Give investment a reason to choose Britain. Before another country does.”

ENDS

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