Foreign Investors *for* Britain

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

FIFB demands urgent partnership on a competitive tax offer with the potential to generate more than £225 billion in investment and wider economic benefits

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Foreign Investors for Britain (FIFB) today called on the Government to work urgently with the international investment community to design a fair, internationally competitive tax framework that keeps investors in Britain, attracts new capital and encourages those who have left to return.

FIFB said its proposed Global Investor Visa and associated tax framework could generate more than £225 billion in investment and wider economic benefits over ten years, subject to validation. That estimate is not equivalent Treasury receipts or a guaranteed return.

Leslie MacLeod-Miller, FIFB Chief Executive, said:

“The British people need measures on the scale of open-heart surgery to drive growth. This Budget has offered a hair straightener.

“International investors are offering to help design a fair, internationally competitive tax structure that secures substantial investment and annual contributions while protecting genuinely non-UK income and assets.

“We have put forward a proposal with the potential to generate more than £225 billion in investment and wider economic benefits over ten years. We want to keep investors here, bring people back and give new entrepreneurs a reason to choose Britain.

“Why are we waiting?

“Optimism, vibes and kicking the can down the road are not substitutes for serious engagement with the business community. These are people with choices about where they live, invest and grow their businesses. Other countries are not waiting for Britain to make up its mind.”

A partnership—not a free pass

FIFB called for an urgent consultation on replacing the four-year Foreign Income and Gains regime with a Global Investor Visa and associated investor tax framework.

Its proposal would require qualifying participants to:

Invest at least £2.5 million in qualifying UK investments.

Make a proposed £200,000 annual contribution to HMRC for up to 15 tax years.

Remain subject to ordinary taxation of UK-source income, gains and assets.

Meet rigorous due-diligence, reporting and continuing compliance requirements.

In return, participants would receive defined protections for qualifying foreign income, gains and genuinely non-UK assets, including inheritance-tax protection during participation. The framework would address qualifying existing residents, returners and new arrivals, including eligible people who do not require a visa.

MacLeod-Miller said:

“This is not a request to contribute nothing. It is an offer to contribute substantially under clear, stable rules.

“Fairness and competitiveness are not opposites. A fair system must secure a durable contribution to Britain—not simply impose rules that look tougher while encouraging taxpayers to leave.

“Britain needs a partnership that works for both sides: productive investment, jobs and public revenue in return for certainty and a competitive approach to genuinely foreign wealth.”

The inheritance-tax warning was clear

Oxford Economics’ November 2024 report for FIFB identified inheritance-tax exposure as a central concern. In the survey underpinning the research, 83% of non-dom respondents identified inheritance tax on their global assets as a major reason they were likely to leave the UK. The finding measured intentions, not subsequent departures.[foreigninvestorsforbritain]

MacLeod-Miller said:

“For many internationally mobile families, exposing assets built overseas—often over generations—to UK inheritance tax was the red line.

“Ministers were warned. They should now engage directly with those making decisions about whether to stay, leave or return.

“A visa alone will not resolve this. Britain needs an internationally competitive tax offer that gives people confidence to commit for the long term.”

Britain cannot ignore the competitive warning

FIFB said warnings extend beyond its own membership:

Bloomberg reported this month on departing individuals and family fortunes associated with approximately $160 billion in wealth. That is not an equivalent sum of capital withdrawn from Britain or lost tax revenue. [Bloomberg]

Henley & Partners’ 2026 UK analysis identifies the abolition of the non-dom regime and expanded inheritance-tax exposure as pressures on Britain’s competitiveness for internationally mobile wealth. Its commercial analysis is distinct from official tax-residence statistics.[Henley Global]

The Institute of Directors’ chief economist warned about worldwide inheritance-tax exposure under the reforms and the additional risks posed by speculation about a wealth tax.[IoD]

The Sovereign Group’s chairman, Howard Bilton, has described worldwide inheritance-tax exposure as unacceptable to many of the internationally mobile families his firm advises. His comments reflect adviser experience rather than a representative population estimate.[Hubbis]

The wider concern about delay was echoed in today’s Financial Times column by Camilla Cavendish, “A Budget disastrously lacking in urgency”. The column addresses Britain’s broader economic strategy, rather than endorsing FIFB’s proposals.[ft]

MacLeod-Miller said:

“Different sources use different evidence. But the Government cannot dismiss the competitive warning simply because there is no single number capturing every departure and every investment decision.

“The question is not whether ministers believe Britain is attractive. It is whether the people choosing between Britain and its competitors agree.”

Consult now. Keep investors here. Bring them back.

FIFB urged the Treasury and Home Office to publish the findings of any investor-route engagement undertaken so far, clarify the status of previously explored investment-visa proposals and launch a formal, time-limited consultation supported by transparent fiscal and economic modelling.

MacLeod-Miller concluded:

“Defence, social care and front-line services need a stronger economy and a broader, sustainable tax base. International investment can help deliver both.

“More than £225 billion in potential investment and wider economic benefits is not a promise of £225 billion for the Treasury to spend. It is a proposal worth testing—and an opportunity Britain cannot afford to dismiss without serious examination.

“The investment community is offering to work with the Government. We want to keep people here, bring people back and build businesses in Britain.

“Stop postponing the conversation. Start designing the offer.

“Why are we waiting?”

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Media contact:

Leslie MacLeod-Miller

Chief Executive Officer, Foreign Investors for Britain

Leslie.MacLeod-Miller@foreigninvestorsforbritain.com

+44 (0) 7979 906172

www.foreigninvestorsforbritain.com

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