

ASK THE EXPERTS

Q I'm a Commonwealth citizen on a UK working holidaymaker visa that will expire in a few months. But I'd like to stay in the UK after that. What should I do?

A To stay in the UK after your WH visa expires, you need to make sure that by the date of expiry you have at least applied for further leave to remain in the UK in another immigration category. Overstaying your WH visa is a criminal offence and renders you liable to administrative removal. The most obvious way (but not the only way) to stay on legally is to move into employment under the work permit scheme. A work permit allows a person to be employed by a particular employer in a particular post. There is no work permit that enables the holder to take any form of employment. Overseas workers must not be taking a job which could be done by someone already resident in the UK or by a European Union national — the prospective employer will have to advertise the post and show why other applicants were not suitable. The worker must usually have had at least two years' experience in a similar job. For more info, see www.workpermits.gov.uk.

■ Australian Anne MacGregor is a solicitor and co-founder of The Southern Cross Group. See www.southern-cross-group.org.

■ If you have a question about work in the UK or abroad, email it to recruitment@tntmag.co.uk and we'll find the right expert to answer it.