

260 work visas issued to Britons under new labour laws

By Greg Heakes

THE Immigration Department has issued about 260 work visas to British citizens in Hong Kong since new labour rules went into effect three months ago.

The department said it was still processing about 200 work visa applications from British citizens. There have been no rejections.

Immigration Department spokesman Alvin Tam said most of the work visas were for jobs such as accountants, lawyers and managerial positions.

He said there was no minimum wage requirement but officers used their discretion before approving a work application.

"We take into consideration the size of the company," Mr Tam said. "We check to see if the wages are low or not. We consider each case on its own merit."

Andrew Monks, of the Shamrock Sandwich Co, can no longer rely on new arrivals to fill vacancies.

"We were relying on British travellers coming through," Mr Monks said. "Now there are less people around to choose from."

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