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Up to 3 million people in Hong Kong could be eligible to live, work or study in the UK, under a bespoke immigration system announced earlier. But legal experts have questioned how much security this scheme will offer Hongkongers.

Kathryn Bradbury, partner and head of citizenship and immigration at the law firm Payne Hicks Beach, pointed out that the path to citizenship would take years and that immigration criteria could change.

“This lacks certainty and would be extremely costly in home office application fees of over £10,000. It would be much more equitable to simply confer full British citizenship to these persons given their BNO status,” added Bradbury.

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