I am writing to provide the Scottish Government response to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee’s inquiry into immigration. I am very grateful for the work of Dr Eve Hepburn, and of the Committee, in preparing a detailed analysis that commands broad support and builds consensus on the way forward. I welcome this inquiry and look forward to continued engagement with the Committee on this matter.

**Introductory context**

Although immigration is a reserved issue, as a nation, Scotland has a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities, and of supporting their integration into Scottish society. This is a history that has taken on even more importance in light of Brexit, and it is vital we send a message that Scotland remains a welcoming place for all those who have chosen to make this country their home.

We are concerned that the UK Government’s restrictive immigration policy is at odds with these wider aims of being an open, welcoming nation. Like the Committee, I also have concerns that the UK Government’s approach to immigration is damaging to Scotland’s demography, economy and society. You will understand that these concerns have now deepened as the UK Government works to take Scotland out of the European Single Market and therefore end free movement.

The position of the Scottish Government is that Scotland’s interests, and the interests of the UK as a whole, are best served by continued UK membership of the European Single Market, through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement. Among the many benefits of this approach is the continued ability of EEA Nationals to live and work in Scotland, and the UK, after Brexit. That is the position we set out in *Scotland’s Place in Europe*, and is the position we continue to advocate to the UK Government.

Whether or not Scotland does secure continued membership of the European Single Market, and free movement of people, there is a strong case and a growing consensus that UK policy on immigration does not address the distinctive migration needs of Scotland. This only becomes all the more pressing if the UK Government settles on a hard Brexit outside the European Single Market.

Over the years, the Scottish Government has pressed the UK Government to introduce a fairer, more flexible immigration system which meets Scotland’s specific needs. We understand the importance of controlled migration to Scotland’s future, both in terms of contributing to sustainable economic growth and mitigating the effects of demographic change.
Scotland’s demographic profile

The population of Scotland is projected to increase by 7 per cent between 2014 and 2039. However, as much as 90 per cent of the increase over the next ten years is projected to come from population flows into Scotland: 57 per cent from net international migration and 32 per cent from movement within the UK (please note the numbers do not sum to 90 due to rounding). This is markedly different to the projections for the UK as a whole, where the projected population increase over the next 10 years is due to a combination of natural change (more births than deaths) and migration, with each contributing 51 per cent and 49 per cent respectively to the UK’s population growth.

If current trends continue, net inward migration is projected to be the main contributor to Scotland’s population growth over the next 25 years. Despite this, the UK Government remain committed to reducing migration to the ‘tens of thousands’ – a policy which fails to take account of Scotland’s acute demographic challenges. A fair and sensible immigration system should be sufficient to manage numbers of migrants without an arbitrary cap which sends the wrong message to those looking to make Scotland their home.

Dr Hepburn’s report recognises that the Scottish Government remains on track to meet the Population Purpose Target in the National Performance Framework, to match average European population growth from 2007 to 2017. By 2016, average growth rates in that period were 0.50 per cent for Scotland and 0.41 per cent for the EU15, and the population of Scotland is now at its highest ever.

Sustaining Scotland’s population growth will remain a key priority for this government. Growing Scotland’s population, principally through migration, will increase the size of our labour force, and with it the tax base, drive improvement in our economic performance, and support essential public services now and in the future, when we expect more people to live longer beyond retirement. It is also vital that we sustain the population and viability of Scotland’s many rural and coastal communities, to ensure that local industries have access to a labour force that allows businesses to compete and grow. This is something that I have a particular interest in, as MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

Dr Hepburn’s work, and the work of the Committee, has drawn attention to Scotland’s demographic profile, and the role of inward migration in responding to that challenge. As I mentioned in my previous letter to the Committee, the Scottish Government is also taking forward work to assess and present the latest evidence on the benefits of migration to Scotland. This has included a wide range of analysis to understand the contribution of EU nationals in strengthening Scotland’s demography, the economic contribution of EU nationals, the regional impacts of EU migration, the impacts on communities and services, and public attitudes to migration. The findings are presented in the slidepack I have sent alongside this letter.

National Records of Scotland is working with the Office for National Statistics to agree the assumptions on future levels of fertility, mortality and migration to incorporate into the next set of 2016-based national population projections. These projections will be released on 26 October 2017 and will provide important evidence
on the future size and age structure of the population in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

Scottland as an attractive and welcoming place to live:

I note that Dr Hepburn’s proposals included identifying the ‘key influencers’ in attracting migrants to Scotland. Scotland is an attractive place to live and work - Scotland ranks highly on the Nation Brand Index among comparable countries in reputation and attractiveness, with a similar profile to nations like New Zealand, Denmark and Austria. Scottish Ministers are keen to continue promoting Scotland’s many assets to the wider world and to tell the story that Scotland is an exceptional place to live, work, study, visit and invest.

It is a Scottish Government priority to continue enhancing the wider world's awareness of Scotland’s attractiveness, and to encourage people to choose Scotland as their future home – in spite of restrictive UK immigration policies. We are working in partnership with VisitScotland, Scottish Enterprise and Universities Scotland to jointly promote Scotland as a place to live, work, study, visit and invest. Working together will extend the reach and impact of our message overseas, and will build on and enhance Scotland’s positive international reputation.

Ensuring that Scotland has the skills we need

Increasing Scotland's international reputation as a welcoming nation is even more important in the current political context – where the rhetoric on immigration is often negative and divisive.

The negative discourse on migration fails to recognise the significant contribution that migrants make to Scotland and the UK every single day. The reality is that without the skills and experience of people from other parts of the UK, the EEA or the wider world, Scotland would be a much poorer place.

Eight per cent of the workforce in Scotland’s five highest exporting industries – over 50,000 people – are migrants. This includes manufacturing of food and drink, professional scientific and technical activities, manufacture of chemicals and rubber, mining and quarrying and wholesale and retail.

We also know that large numbers of migrants living in Scotland were employed as managers and directors (16,500), sales assistants and retail cashiers (10,300), and also worked in fields such as caring and personal services (9,300) and teaching and education (8,900). Without the contribution of migrants to these industries, our economy would certainly be worse off.

Additionally, in response to the challenge posed by Brexit, a wide range of companies have been consistent and clear since the EU referendum that the continued availability of labour is essential. Scotland’s rural and island communities depend on workers from Europe in a range of sectors, with tourism alone employing more than 20,000 non-UK EU nationals, 10.8 per cent of the total workforce. Around 8,000 people employed in the food and drink growth sector are non-UK EU nationals, with up to 15,000 more employed in the seasonal soft fruit and vegetable sectors. Scotland’s public services also rely on access to this labour force;
approximately three per cent of health and social care staff in Scotland are from other EU countries.

Scottish Government research published last year highlighted that European migrants, particularly those who have moved to the UK in recent years, make a more positive contribution to the public purse, in terms of the taxes they pay and the costs of public benefits and services they receive, than migrants from outside Europe and people born in the UK.\(^1\)

It is clear that Scottish business and public services must be able to continue to attract and access the skills and talent needed to boost Scotland’s long-term competitiveness and to support Scotland’s Economic Strategy.

**EU Citizen’s Rights**

Since the referendum, we have worked hard to ensure that our EU national population feels welcome and secure. We hope that they wish to continue to make a strong contribution to our country and that is why we repeatedly called for assurances for their rights to be protected in the place that they choose to call home.

While we welcome greater clarity and insight into the UK Government position, it is intolerable that it’s taken a year for the UK Government to bring these proposals forward and that EU citizens have been left in a huge amount of uncertainty about their future. Additionally, the position that the UK Government have set out still leaves many unanswered questions which affect people’s daily lives.

The Scottish Government has published a response to the UK Government’s paper on safeguarding the rights of EU citizens.\(^2\) This outlines the areas in which the UK Government should seek to provide greater clarity for EU citizens here, and UK citizens in EU countries. We have again reinforced the need for the UK Government to properly consult and engage with the Devolved Administrations to clarify these points, and to ensure that the Scottish Government has the opportunity to properly engage with the Scottish Parliament.

**Differentiating the UK immigration system**

Alongside our policy on remaining within the European Single Market and therefore retaining free movement of people, we will continue pushing for broader regional and national differences within the wider UK immigration system.

A post-study work route in Scotland is one option we continue to pursue. The outcome of the EU referendum makes it even more important that the UK Government honours the recommendation in the Smith report to explore a potential post study work route to ensure Scotland continues to attract and retain talent from around the world. This would be an important lever for attracting the best international student talent, securing essential income streams, and allowing talented graduates to contribute to Scotland after their studies end.

\(^1\) [http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/10/5974/0](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/10/5974/0)

More widely, there is growing recognition that a strong case exists for Scotland to have responsibility for our own immigration policy - as we set out in Scotland’s Place in Europe, a one-size-fits-all approach to immigration is no longer appropriate and Scotland needs to explore a distinctive approach.

As Dr Hepburn notes, the Scottish Government has in the past pointed to examples of successful differentiated immigration systems to highlight that there is precedent for regions within one country to be empowered to identify and address their own specific immigration needs.

Dr Hepburn’s analysis helpfully examines differentiated models in other territories, and I note that, in common with Scotland, many regions in Australia and Canada are facing specific demographic challenges. It is encouraging to see how smoothly these systems can operate, with appropriate interfaces between national and sub-national government. Such systems do not create borders or barriers between provinces or states – instead they help to grow the population and boost economic growth in response to specific regional circumstances.

Conclusion

Scotland has benefited enormously from migration, and in particular from EU citizens exercising their rights to come to Scotland to live and work. The nature of Scotland’s demographic and economic circumstances mean that in order to succeed in future, inward migration must continue to feature prominently in our population growth.

It is evident that UK immigration policy does not adequately reflect Scotland’s demographic, population and skills needs, and nor does the negative rhetoric from the UK Government on immigration do anything to enhance Scotland’s international reputation as a welcoming nation.

Retaining membership of the European Single Market will secure Scotland’s access to free movement of people and will help mitigate some of the impact of demographic change, provide access to skills and will contribute to our vibrant communities.

The Scottish Government will continue to call for a less restrictive and more humane system from the UK which recognises individual and demographic circumstances. We will push the UK Government to provide flexibilities within the immigration system to meet Scotland’s particular needs. However, we must also work to ensure that Scotland is not negatively impacted by the UK Government’s fixation with reducing net migration. We will continue to set out a distinctive vision for future immigration into Scotland, and advance the case that this would be best achieved if the appropriate powers were devolved.

Dr Hepburn’s policy options offer an incredibly useful and practical contribution to this debate and I am keen to continue discussion with the Committee on these proposals.
The benefits of migration in Scotland

Evidence Pack
June 2017
Context and content

- Following the EU referendum the position of EU nationals in Scotland, and the UK more widely, has been widely discussed.
- The tone of the debate about inward migration does not match the evidence of the positive effects of inward migration to Scotland.
- The analysis aims to provide a detailed analysis of the demographic, economic and social impact of EU nationals in Scotland, assessing:
  - The rate and character of population change in Scotland and its role in driving growth;
  - The contribution EU nationals make to the Scottish economy;
  - Key gaps filled by EU nationals in sectors, regions and age groups;
  - Key impacts on Scottish society, and the nature of Scottish public attitudes towards migrants, and
  - The possible impacts of a significant reduction in current levels of migration.
Executive Summary

- Population growth is the biggest driver of economic growth in Scotland, and while we compare reasonably well against EU nations, we have slower projected population growth than the rest of the UK.
- Inward migration is critical for future population growth within Scotland. EU nationals make up around half of the total of non-UK migrants into Scotland.
- Through living and working in Scotland, EU nationals make a significant positive contribution to Scotland’s economy and cultural diversity.
- EU workers are relatively highly skilled, entrepreneurial and work across a range of industries, in particular amongst key exporting sectors.
- Inward migration is key to filling gaps within Scotland, including reducing demographic change and filling skills gaps across Scotland’s regions and sectors.
- There would be substantial negative impacts if there was a reduction in the level of EU migration to Scotland.
Scotland’s demographic resilience and the contribution of EU nationals
Population is the biggest driver of economic growth in Scotland…

Average Annual Growth: 2007 - 2016

- Economic growth is driven by population growth, proportion of those people who are in employment (participation) and how much output each one produces (productivity).
- As the chart indicates, over the past decade population growth has been the primary driver of growth for both Scotland and the UK.
Yet we have slower projected population growth than our international comparators.

Projected population change in selected European countries and UK Nations 2014-39

Scotland’s population projected to grow slower than the rest of the UK

- **Mid-2014**
  - Population of Scotland: 5.35 million
  - Population of UK: 64.6 million
- **Mid-2039**
  - Population of Scotland: 5.70 million
  - Population of UK: 74.3 million

Scotland's population is projected to grow slower than the rest of the UK by +7% compared to +15% for the UK in general.

90% of the increase in Scotland’s population over next 10 years projected to come from migration

If current trends continue, only 10% of the projected increase in Scotland’s population over the next decade can be attributed to natural increase while 90% of the increase is due to assuming continuing inward net migration.

More migrants came to Scotland from the rest of the UK than from overseas, although the gap in migration from overseas and rUK has narrowed.

Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year population estimates
More international in-migrants to Scotland come from the EU compared to other countries

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey
Note: Estimates based on a very small number of survey contacts each year
About a third of international out-migrants from Scotland go to the EU

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey
Note: Estimates based on a very small number of survey contacts each year
Demographic change (ageing) will impact significantly on our working age population

Scotland, like most other advanced economies, is coming under increasing pressure caused by its ageing population.

As our labour force continues to age, younger workers migrating to Scotland will help ease pressures caused by this demographic change, providing a sustainable source of labour supply and contributing towards meeting the increased demand for services associated with an ageing population.
The fastest rate of increase in migration has come from the EU nationals...boosting our overall population particularly in younger age cohorts....

• Growth in migration from the EU has driven the growth in migration over the last decade.

• The majority of EU migrants are young and of working age, with 80% of non-UK EU nations aged 16-64.

If levels of EU migration drop, the impact on the future age structure of population is of particular concern for Scotland ...

Projected change in number of children, working age and pension age population, using current principal projection and zero future EU migration variants, 2014-2039

Scotland’s dependency ratio is projected to increase

Continued EU inward migration critical to ensure we can grow our working age population and support people as they live longer beyond retirement.

Scotland’s population growth projected to decline in a hard Brexit scenario

Percentage change in population from 2014 to 2039, principal and alternative EU migration variant projections

Between 2014 and 2039

On current trends…
7% growth in Scotland’s population

If EU migration to Scotland falls to half of current levels…
5% growth in Scotland’s population

If no EU migration, only 3% growth in Scotland’s population


Note: These projections are illustrative, and are included to show the possible effect on Scotland’s population and its structure of changes in EU immigration. There is a high degree of uncertainty around projecting varying levels of migration in the principal population projection and this is only increased by trying to model what the future level of EU migration might be following the UK leaving the EU.
Economic Contribution of EU Nationals
Summary of EU nationals contribution the Scottish economy

181,000 (non-UK) EU nationals living in Scotland in 2015 3.4% of the total population

75.9% of EU nationals aged 16 and over are in employment

28.6% are employed in distribution, hotels and restaurants
17.1% are employed in public administration, education and health

35% of working age EU nationals have a degree level qualification or higher

20,000 EU nationals work in tourism 10.8% of all those employed in the sector

8,000 EU nationals work in food and drink 11.3% of all those employed in the sector

The Scottish Government
EU nationals’ main contribution to the economy is through employment

• 80% of non-UK EU nationals are working age in Scotland, and the employment rate for non-UK EU nationals is higher than the overall employment rate for Scotland.

• Through working and living in Scotland EU nationals provide both an economic and fiscal contribution to Scotland.

• Research has shown that the economic contribution in Scotland of non-UK EU nationals was estimated to be around £7.3 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) each year.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2015
EU nationals are relatively highly skilled

- EU nationals are highly skilled with over a third of non-UK EU nationals in Scotland having a degree level qualification or higher.

- This is not just important for economic growth, it is also integral both to the development of new ideas and to the dissemination of innovations within Scotland.

- Furthermore, EU students add to the diversity of our communities, enrich the learning experience and contribute to our economic prosperity.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2015, ONS
EU nationals are entrepreneurial

- In Scotland, rates of self employment amongst non-UK EU nationals (12.9%) are higher compared to all others (11.5%).
- Research has shown that entrepreneurialism amongst migrants tends to be higher than amongst UK born residents, with 14% of all UK companies in the UK started by migrants.
- 17.2% non-UK nationals start own companies, whereas only 10.4% of UK nationals start own companies.

Source: GEM

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)
EU nationals work across a range of industries…

- Most non-UK EU nationals work in the service sector in *Distribution, hotels and restaurants* and *Public admin, education and health* (in care services, in particular).
- However, they also make up a large proportion of employment in the *Manufacturing* and *Finance* sectors.
And are highly represented across our key exporting sectors

- EU nationals make up a significant proportion of employment in sectors which are large exporters within Scotland, such as the *Food processing and manufacturing* sector as well as in *Wholesale and retail*.
Inward migration also helps address skills shortages across the economy – which exist even with current levels of EU in employment

- Skilled migrants may already be coming into Scotland and addressing a skills gap; without this inward migration, some skills gaps may worsen.
- Indeed, 58% of EU nationals moving to the UK in 2015 did so with a definite job offer in place.
EU Migration and Regional Impacts
EU migrants are concentrated in cities

**Projected percentage change in population by local authority 2014-39**

- **Edinburgh, City of**
- **Glasgow City**
- **Aberdeen City**
- **Dundee City**
- **Perth and Kinross**

**Top 5 local authorities with the highest percentage of non-UK EU nationals, 2015**

- **Edinburgh, City of**
- **Glasgow City**
- **Aberdeen City**
- **Dundee City**
- **Perth and Kinross**

**Percentage change**

Source: NRS 2014-based Population projections

But can promote economic resilience across all geographical areas in Scotland

People born in the European Economic Area (EEA) living in every local authority in Scotland

- from 7.2% of the population of Aberdeen City to 0.9% in East Ayrshire.

Source: Scotland’s Census, 2011, National Records of Scotland
Regions such as the Highlands and Islands are reliant on in-migration

The region’s growth sectors, particularly food and drink and tourism, employ significant numbers of EU nationals. Survey data showed that:

- 23% of businesses employ EU nationals.
- Around a third of businesses felt that free movement of labour across the EU was important to them – with larger businesses and tourism businesses feeling this most strongly.
- A third of businesses stated that reduced EU migration would make it more difficult for them to recruit skilled and experienced staff – again, larger businesses felt this most strongly.
- Most businesses (73%) have not yet taken steps to address this issue although 23% recognised the need to do so.

Source: Highlands and Islands Business Panel – October / November 2016
Migrant status by industry – all people aged 16-74 in employment by council areas

- Inner ring: EEA/non-EEA migrants
- Middle ring: Council areas
- Outer ring: Industry

- How to read this diagram - example: 6,415 of Non-EEA migrants living in Edinburgh work in the Public administration, education and health industry
- Available as an interactive tool

Source: Scotland’s 2011 Census, NRS data
The Agriculture sector in certain areas of Scotland is highly dependent on seasonal migrant workers

- It is estimated that around 8,000 people employed in the food and drink sector are non-UK EU nationals and up to 15,000 non-UK seasonal migrant workers are employed in the soft fruit and vegetable sectors for harvest in summer and autumn. Many more work in seasonal fish processing.
- The rural economy as a whole relies heavily on the free movement of people to make sure Scottish businesses can employ the workers they need. Ageing and the decline of rural populations in certain areas heighten this need.
European nationals make up a large proportion of those working in Health and Social Services

At the time of the 2011 Census, approx. 14% of all adults in employment in Scotland were working in health or social services. Almost 29,000 of these people were non-UK-born migrants, and 10,000 of these were migrants from EEA countries.

The highest number of EEA migrants (around 3,500) were working in caring and personal services.

Nearly 2,000 migrants were health professionals and over 1,350 migrants were nursing or midwifery professionals.

In 2015, there were 1,139 non-UK EEA-qualified doctors in Scotland: 5.7% of all Scotland’s doctors (GMC 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health services &amp; public health managers &amp; directors</th>
<th>Total in employment</th>
<th>EEA migrant Number</th>
<th>% of total workforce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social services managers &amp; directors</td>
<td>3,306</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers and proprietors in health &amp; care services</td>
<td>6,457</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health professionals</td>
<td>39,276</td>
<td>1,959</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy professionals</td>
<td>9,169</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing and midwifery professionals</td>
<td>65,180</td>
<td>1,374</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare professionals</td>
<td>14,126</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health associate professionals</td>
<td>9,999</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare and housing associate professionals</td>
<td>31,350</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare and related personal services</td>
<td>48,894</td>
<td>1,159</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring and personal services</td>
<td>126,395</td>
<td>3,497</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number working in health and social care</td>
<td>357,099</td>
<td>9,994</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Scotland’s 2011 Census, NRS
Migration is important for Scotland’s Seafood Sector

Labour

- **Fisheries (GVA - £216M)** - In 2015, over 4,800 people were employed in sea fishing, 8% of whom were EEA nationals. Almost all EEA and non-EEA fishers work in the mobile fishing sectors (trawling and dredging sectors).

- **Onshore seafood Processing (GVA - £461M)** - In 2015, there were over 4,750 people employed in seafood processing in Scotland. Scotland makes up one third (34%) of seafood processing employment in the UK. Although not available for Scotland, data on nationality indicates that at the UK level, of those employed in seafood processing, 46% were EEA nationals.

- **Aquaculture (GVA – 275M)** - In 2015, over 2,100 people were employed in aquaculture farming. [no information available on the nationality].

Seasonality

- Labour in the sea fisheries and aquaculture industries in Scotland is mainly contracted and permanent and therefore is not notably affected by seasonal labour. Seasonal labour is more prevalent in seafood processing, but we have limited statistics on this sector in Scotland.

- Interviews with Scottish processors have indicated that they are highly dependent on seasonal labour in one area (Shetland) and that most of this labour is supplied by EEA nationals.

Source: Marine Analytical Unit | Marine Scotland
Impact of migration on public finances

• Estimating the net fiscal impact of in-migration is a complex task, as it involves comparing the taxes and other contributions made by migrants to public finances with the costs of the public benefits and services they receive, such as access to the NHS.

• The net fiscal impact therefore depends on the characteristics of migrants, their impacts on the labour market and the characteristics and rules of the welfare system, among other factors.

• Whilst estimates vary widely, existing evidence appears to show that the net fiscal impact of migrants rarely exceeded plus or minus 0.5% of GDP [Source: OECD Policy Brief, 2014]

• However, given that they have higher employment rates than UK nationals, migrants from the EEA are less likely to claim out-of-work benefits, although they are more likely to claim in-work benefits, compared to people born in the UK. EEA migrants are less likely than non-EEA migrants to receive state benefits or tax credits. [Source: Dustmann and Frattini, 2014]
Overall, through living and working in Scotland, EU nationals make a significant positive contribution to Scotland’s economy. They are key to filling gaps within the economy, including reducing demographic change and filling skills gaps across Scotland’s regions and sectors.
Cultural and community contributions and impacts of migrants in Scotland
Migrant status by length of residence and country of birth – all people

- Inner ring: EEA/non-EEA migrants
- Middle ring: Arrived in UK within last 10 years/Arrived in the UK 10 years or longer ago
- Outer ring: Country of birth

- How to read this diagram - example: 15,113 of EEA migrants who have lived in Scotland for 10 years or more are from Germany
- Available as interactive tool

Source: Scotland’s 2011 Census, NRS data
### Migrants to Scotland (from outside UK): top 10 countries of birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2011 ranking</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
<th>2001 ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>55,231</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23,489</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22,952</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22,274</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20,039</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15,919</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15,338</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10,607</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9,458</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9,435</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2011 Census, National Records of Scotland

The Scottish Government
Impact of migration on integration and culture

• The greater the ethnic diversity of neighbourhoods, the less likely it is that people think levels of migration should be reduced.

• Language affects access to information, employability and engagement; the ability to make friends, adapt to new environments and deal with loss and loneliness. The process of learning a language in itself encourages mutual adaptation of migrants and the host society.

• In the urban context, research has established that factors such as the ability to speak English without difficulty, employment and educational qualifications all have a significant impact on migrants’ ability to develop a social support network and access social amenities within the community.

• In rural Scotland, migrants face difficulty in maintaining their sense of belonging to norms of culture other than the dominant majority, in the absence of co-ethnic groups within reasonable distance [Source: The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland, Scottish Government, 2016]
Impact of migration on health and social care services

- Most economic migrants are young, with low healthcare needs.
- Health services are heavily reliant on migrant labour; particularly the labour of non-EEA migrants.
- There appears to be relatively low rates of GP registration among migrants. Uncertainty over entitlement to treatment, differences in provision and approaches to treatment in Scotland and in their country of birth, and language barriers, all contribute to low levels of trust and willingness to access health services by migrants.
- There is evidence that migrants’ health can deteriorate with length of stay within the UK, e.g. in relation to alcohol use, smoking behaviour and eating habits.
- Where evidence exists of migrant related increased demand for healthcare, it is associated with social deprivation, poor language skills and, possibly, lack of knowledge of the health system, rather than migration *per se* [Source: The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland, Scottish Government, 2016]
Impact of migration on housing services

• There are lower rates of home ownership among migrants, and greater representation in the rental sector. Recent migrants are less likely than the UK-born population to be accommodated in the social housing sector. The longer migrants live in the UK, the more likely they are to become owner occupiers, and the less likely they are to be in the private rented sector.

• Migrants who hope to earn and save as much money as possible often opt to live in homes of multiple occupation. However, for others, the ability to live independently as a couple or family unit may play a major role when deciding whether to remain in Scotland [Source: The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland, Scottish Government, 2016].
What kind of areas do migrants live in?

- This chart does **not** include UK migrants, and does not distinguish between European and non-European groups. Focuses on established and recent arrivals (more/less than 10 years in Scotland)
- Very different distributions of migrants over SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)

- Recent migrants more likely to live both in most and least deprived areas
- Established migrants more likely to live in least deprived areas
Settling patterns; migrants and housing tenure

Housing tenure and length of residence, all migrants in households

Source: Scotland’s Census 2011

The Scottish Government

Source: Scotland’s Census 2011
Impact of migration on education services

• Evidence suggests that school performance and pupil achievement is enhanced by migrants in schools.

• The relationship between the number of migrants in schools and performance is not clear cut, because schools receiving the highest number of migrant children are in some of the most deprived areas.

• Some research has identified additional demands on schools, arising from the needs of some migrant pupils, including translation and interpretation services and numeracy and literacy for children who have not received a formal education [Source: The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland, Scottish Government, 2016].
Impact of migration on crime and justice services

- There is little consistent relationship between crime and migration. Where it has been possible to disaggregate between groups of migrants, evidence has generally been consistent with the standard economic model of crime where groups with poor labour market opportunities are more associated with property crime.
- Models of individual crime participation tend to show that migrants are less likely to commit crime than observably similar people who are born in the UK.
- Migrants are less likely to be victims of crimes than people born in the UK although, as time in the country increases, migrant experiences of crime tend to mirror that of the UK-born population.
- In neighbourhoods with a higher share of migrants in the local population, there is lower reported crime and self-reported victimisation than in similar neighbourhoods with lower migration densities. This appears to indicate some measure of protection from crime for local populations living in areas with higher rates of migrants [Source: The impacts of migrants and migration into Scotland, Scottish Government, 2016].
A warm(er?) welcome? Public attitudes to migrants in Scotland

• Overall, the evidence suggests that, while trends and levels of positive or negative attitudes towards migrants differ little in Scotland from opinions across GB as a whole, the Scottish position is generally a shade ‘softer’ than GB

• This includes the Scottish public’s views on migration and freedom of movement in the context of Brexit negotiations

• There is a mismatch between public perceptions of who migrants are (and why there are in the UK) and statistical data relating to migrant characteristics.
More people in Scotland think that the level of immigration into Britain over the last ten years has been mostly bad for the country than think that is has been mostly good. Overall, however, people in Scotland feel slightly more positive about the impact of migration than people in GB as a whole.

Scottish public opinion is more evenly divided about whether migration is good or bad for the British economy than opinions across GB.

A higher percentage of people think the impact of migration has been positive than is the case across GB.

Public attitudes: access to services

The majority of people in Scotland and GB as a whole think that people coming to live in the UK should have to wait a year or more before being allowed to access public services. Public opinion in Scotland is a shade ‘softer’ than in GB as a whole, with people here more likely to think that people coming to live in the UK should be allowed access to public services either as soon as they settle here or after a short period of time.

Thinking about how people coming to live in the UK access free public services like the NHS, do you think people coming here to live and work

Public attitudes: impact on jobs

‘Many people come to live in Britain. What effect, in any, would you say people born outside the UK who have moved to Britain have had upon the availability of jobs?’ Ipsos MORI State of the Nation Poll 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>All GB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No effect either way</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public attitudes: migration in Brexit negotiations

The Scottish public’s views on migration and freedom of movement in the context of Brexit negotiations show similar trends to GB as a whole. But results of studies by ScotCen and NatCen (2017) suggest a generally softer position on migration in Scotland than in GB.

People in Scotland are also more likely than people in GB as a whole to think that Britain should allow people from the EU to come here to live and work in return for allowing British firms to trade freely in the EU (61% and 54% respectively).

Public attitudes: feelings about migrants

‘Which, if any, of the following words describe your feelings about the number of immigrants coming to Britain?’ (please tick up to four)

British Election Survey 2010

Scotland (%)  
Britain (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>Britain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uneasy</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disgusted</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angry</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afraid</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopeful</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proud</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Public attitudes: who migrants are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘When you think about immigrants coming to and living in Scotland, which of the following groups, if any, do you normally think about?’ (Please choose all that apply)</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-EU citizens</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU citizens</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British citizens arriving from England</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you think about ‘immigrants,’ which of these types of people do you normally have in mind?’ (Please choose all that apply)</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People who come here to apply for refugee status</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who come here to work in paid jobs</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who come here to live with partner</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who come here to study</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACT CHECK**

The most common reason for coming to UK (all non-UK migrants) was to:
- Join family - 38%
- Work - 32%
- Study - 20%
- Asylum - 3%

(Annual Population Survey, 2013)

59% of people who came to the UK for family reasons/as a dependent were in employment (Home Office, 2014, using APS data 2012-13)

Migrants from **England** make up 8.7% of Scotland’s population (all other migrants make up another 8% of the population).

Scotland Census, 2011

(YouGov/Migration Observatory Survey 2013)
Concluding evidence observations

- Migrants to Scotland make vital contributions to our economy, and boost our GDP
- Migrants to Scotland are an essential part of our future population growth, and our economic performance depends upon them
- Scotland’s rural and remote areas are particularly reliant on in-migration to sustain their services and industries
- Migrants to Scotland add to the richness and diversity of our culture; integration is a two-way process between new and host communities
- Attitudes to migrants in Scotland are little different than across GB generally, despite Scotland relying on migrants more than other parts of the UK. However, where differences do exist, they suggest a slightly softer position.