The EMLC has been providing bilingual and culturally sensitive legal services to ethnic minority communities since 1991 when our head office in Glasgow first opened. We offer specialist legal advice and representation in the areas of Immigration and Nationality law, Asylum law, Discrimination law and Employment law.

As part of our expansion throughout Scotland, we launched a pilot project on 1st October 2013 funded by Perth and Kinross Council to assist the minority ethnic communities in this area. This funding was continued by Perth and Kinross Council and there are currently 61 active files across all of our specialised areas.

PKAVS Minority Communities Hub gives tailored support to people from minority backgrounds, particularly Eastern European, South Asian and Chinese. Established in 2010, PKAVS is the lead organization supporting the expanding migrant population in Perth & Kinross, helping hundreds of people to access local services and play an active role in their community. The charity provides information, advice and referral support on employment, education, finance and health issues in Perth as well as through rural outreach surgeries. We also provide interpreting and translation as well as providing English classes, work clubs, and culture activities.

Together, our two organisations work closely with other partner organizations across Perth and Kinross to ensure there is widespread, accessible support for the minority ethnic community in the region. Our partners include, Perth Citizens Advice Bureau, the Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP) and Perthshire Woman’s Aid.

We provide this consultation to give an insight into the effects of the vote to leave the EU on our client base within Perth and Kinross.

We understand that the committee is interested in a Scotland wide outlook on this issue and as such we would be pleased to contribute in any further, co-ordinated consultations or seminars which might take place.

Our consultation relates to clients who have been referred through PKAVS to the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for legal advice from the minority ethnic community. We have set out

a table below which demonstrates the change in both the number and type of clients we have taken on since the vote compared to the previous two months. The table also sets out the proportion of our EU national clients who are in full time employment as an indication of their economic contribution to the area.
As the table shows, we have had a 50% increase in the number of clients taken on after the referendum vote compared to before. The proportion of these clients who are EU nationals has not differed. However the proportion of cases which relate to Permanent Residence documentation has increased by 29%.

This demonstrates that as a result of the vote, EU nationals in Perth and Kinross are now taking steps to secure their position in the UK by seeking advice on obtaining documents which confirm their right to reside in the UK.

As the table shows, of the 13 EU nationals who have requested help in applying for documents certifying their right to permanent residence in the UK, we have assessed that 12 have already acquired Permanent Residence here under the EEA Regulations. The other client was a Romanian national who has acquired a right to reside as a worker, rather than a permanent right to reside.

As to the contribution made to the society in Perth and Kinross, we have limited statistics in this field however the table does demonstrate that 94% of our EU national clients taken on since the referendum vote are working.