



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

Rt. Hon Theresa May MP  
Home Secretary  
UK Government

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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20 January 2016

Dear Home Secretary,

### Re. Post Study Work Visas

As you are aware, the issue of a possible re-introduction of Post Study Work Visas along the lines of the previous Fresh Talent scheme has been a matter of debate in recent days. This followed the announcement by the Secretary of State for Scotland in a Written Statement to the House of Commons that "The Smith Commission did not recommend that the two Governments discuss the re-introduction of the former Tier 1 (Post Study Work) visa, and there is no intention to do so."

My Committee has agreed to look at this issue as part of our work programme relating to the passage of the Scotland Bill and we will be holding an evidence session on Thursday 28 January. I would be keen to receive written evidence from both Governments and am therefore requesting information from you in advance of our meeting.

I would be interested to know the views of the UK Government on the merits of introducing such a scheme, what dialogue you, other UK Ministers or UK Government officials have had on this matter with the Scottish Government or others in Scotland and what your view is of the feasibility of introducing such a scheme in Scotland.

I noted with interest the comments by the Secretary of State for Scotland in *The Herald* on 19 January as indicating that "If a case can be made for a different regime, then obviously we will look at that." This was followed by comments the following day to a House of Commons committee that he was prepared to listen to proposals and to make representations to the Prime Minister regarding the re-introduction of a Post Study Work Visa scheme.

It is important, therefore, that we have a definitive position from the UK Government on whether it is prepared to consider the re-introduction of some form of Post Study Work Visa along the lines of the former Fresh Talent scheme and what is required to make this a reality.

I thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter and am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland for his information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Crawford".

Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener