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Our Reference: 202600515597
Your Reference: UK Government Immigration Proposals Impacts on East Dunbartonshire

11 May 2026

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter regarding East Dunbartonshire Council's concerns around the changes outlined in the UK Government's Immigration White Paper and the effect this will potentially have on your community.

I am responding to you in my capacity as Minister for Equalities as my portfolio covers population and migration.

We are proud that Scotland is a welcoming, inclusive and open nation, and we appreciate the benefits and positive impact that migration brings to our communities.

The Scottish Government submitted comprehensive, evidence-based [set of proposals](#) to the UK Government during the development of the Immigration White Paper. However, it fails to reflect Scotland's distinct demographic and economic circumstances and does not address the specific needs of our communities, labour market, or public services.

The Home Office's decision to end the international recruitment of care workers, without sufficient notice or any substantial consultation on the impact this will have, will be devastating for the care sector in Scotland and across the UK.

The Scottish Government is opposed to the UK Government's proposed settlement reforms, including the intention to extend the qualifying period for Indefinite Leave to Remain from five to ten or more years, and the requirements needed for people to reduce this. These changes fail to accurately recognise the contribution that people who choose to live and work in Scotland make to our

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

communities and economy, and risk negatively impacting Scotland's demographic and economic ambitions.

Furthermore, these changes represent unfairness to those who have come to Scotland in good faith and now may face a considerably longer period to achieve settlement than they had expected when making their decision to build their lives here.

The Scottish Government is strongly opposed to the retrospective application of changes to settlement routes for those already living in the UK on a route to settlement. The retrospective application of changes being proposed would mean that thousands of people already in the UK now face uncertainty and potential hardship. Extending No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) conditions to those with settlement also risks pushing more families into destitution.

The Scottish Government has submitted a full response to the Home Office's 'Earned Settlement' consultation, given the wide-reaching impact previous and proposed future changes will have. We trust that the UK Government will fully consider our response to the consultation and the negative impacts these changes will bring. It is vital that before implementing any changes to existing routes to settlement, the UK Government engages further with the Scottish Government and other key stakeholders to ensure that concerns are addressed.

We will continue to call on the UK Government for an immigration system which works for Scotland's people, economy and public services. It is essential that future reforms are responsive to Scotland's distinct demographic challenges and economic needs, and that they are developed in genuine partnership.

Yours sincerely



KAUKAB STEWART

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