



Our Reference: 202500499527

9 January 2026

Dear 

Thank you for your email to the Scottish Government. I work in the Scottish Government's International Relations, Population and Migration Division and have been asked to reply.

As you are aware, immigration matters are fully reserved to the UK Government. The Scottish Government has no control over the operation of the immigration system, which is managed by the Home Office. You can find more information including how to contact the Home Office on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

The decision to increase the baseline qualifying period for settlement from five to ten years does not reflect Scotland's needs and sends the wrong message to those who have chosen to make Scotland their home, built their lives here, and contributed to our communities and economy.

You may be interested in the consultation launched by the Home Secretary on 20 November regarding proposals to reform the rules on settlement. You can view the details of the consultation and share your views on the [UK Government's website](https://www.gov.uk).

You may wish to [contact your local MP](#) and make them aware of your concerns. MPs can make enquiries with UK Government officials or Ministers on your behalf. If they agree to support you, they may choose to raise your case publicly in the House of Commons – through questions, debates, motions or amendments. [Find out more about how MPs can help](#).

Immigration is a complex legal area, and you may choose to seek professional advice to understand how any policy changes impact the options available to you now or in the future. The Scottish

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Government cannot provide legal or immigration advice, however an immigration advisor can be found with the [Immigration Advice Authority](#) (IAA) which regulates immigration advice and services under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Alternatively, a private solicitor specialising in immigration, can be found through [Law Society Scotland](#).

You may also be interested in [Scotland's Migration Service](#), a free service developed by Scottish Government. The service provides support and advice to navigate the UK immigration system. If you meet the [eligibility criteria](#), you may also be able to access free, personalised, one-to-one appointments with qualified advisers from Citizens Advice Scotland, who Scottish Government have partnered with. Advisers can help with specific circumstances regarding immigration.

The Scottish Government remains committed to supporting people who come to Scotland and contribute to our economy, public services and communities.

Yours sincerely

Dean Black

IPAM : MIGRATION STRATEGY TEAM

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