



Home Office

James Brokenshire MP
Immigration Minister

2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Nicola,

16 SEP 2015

IMMIGRATION BILL

Further to my letter of 13 August 2015 I am now writing to inform you that the Immigration Bill will be introduced to the House of Commons on Thursday 17 September 2015.

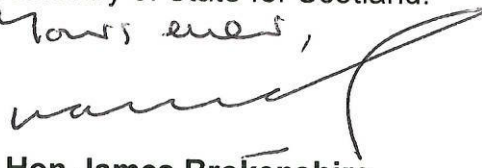
I am extremely grateful for the constructive help that your officials have offered and for the warm welcome they gave the Bill team who visited Edinburgh on 19 August. We have shared draft clauses on a number of measures.

I understand that Scottish ministers have not yet given a view on the Bill measure to create new English language requirements for public sector workers. On introduction, this measure will extend to England, Wales and Scotland. In respect of Scotland the measure is limited so that it only relates to reserved matters. Further discussions are needed to determine whether the requirement should apply more widely in Scotland and if so, whether the Bill should be amended and the legislative consent of the Scottish Parliament should be sought.

My officials have briefly discussed with yours to find a mechanism to allow more information sharing between public sector bodies in Scotland and the Home Office for an immigration purpose. I understand that this has proven complicated and we will now seek to insert this by amendment rather than include on introduction. I am hoping that a way can be found to achieve this without altering the executive competence of Ministers.

I have noted the views of the Scottish Government in relation to our proposals on reforming asylum support. We will be publishing the government's response to the consultation in due course.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Yours ever,


Rt Hon James Brokenshire