

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartais
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Micheal Matheson BPA
Michael Matheson MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr James Brokenshire
Immigration Minister
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



6 January 2015


Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 6 November about the Immigration Bill, and taxis and private hire car licensing.

The Scottish Government is concerned that the proposed Immigration Bill is underpinned by a flawed drive to reduce numbers of migrants as a goal in its own right, without any consideration of the damaging impact of reducing numbers at any cost. If any part of the Bill is not right for Scotland then we expect the UK Government to take the views of the Scottish Government into account.

Turning specifically to the intention to amend Scottish licensing regimes. Scotland has had its own licensing systems and legislation since before devolution in 1999. These are complex, and I am therefore very concerned that the pace with which amendments to the Bill are being prepared in relation to Scottish licensing regimes, and the very limited consultation with the Scottish Government and wider Scottish stakeholders, will result in flawed and unworkable provisions which will be to the detriment of business and the wider public.

It would be helpful to be provided with an indication of the timetable that you are working to, and draft provisions for comment as soon as possible.

Best wishes

MICHAEL MATHESON