



31 March 2021

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Chair,

Arrangements for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders from Hong Kong at the UK border and in the UK before 17 May 2021.

On 31 January 2021 the new Hong Kong BN(O) route opened for applications. The route allows BN(O) status holders and their family members to apply to live, work and study in the UK on a pathway to settlement and citizenship.

I'm writing to you to advise you I am making a Ministerial Authorisation under Schedule 3, Part 4, paragraph 17 (4) (a) of the Equality Act 2010.

This Ministerial Authorisation relates to the extending of Leave Outside the Rules (LOTR) at the Border for BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members. Further to my letter of 27 January 2021, this new Ministerial Authorisation will be extending the relevant provisions of the previous Ministerial Authorisation on the subject of LOTR at the border, which were due to expire on 31 March 2021, but which will now be extended until 17 May 2021.

The new Ministerial Authorisation will continue to allow Border Force to consider granting Hong Kong BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members LOTR at the border in situations where they do not qualify for entry under the Immigration Rules due to their intention to remain in the UK. This will remain in place until 17 May 2021. This will ensure BN(O) status holders and their family members will be able to travel to, and remain in, the UK during the time in which international travel is affected by COVID-19.

This follows the Government's decision to implement LOTR provision for BN(O) status holders and their family members following the imposition by the Chinese Government of a national security law on Hong Kong that restricts the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong in breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. This is in recognition of the unique and historic commitment of the UK to those with BN(O) status in Hong Kong through the Joint Declaration.

I am placing a copy of this letter and the Arrangement for this concession in the Library of both Houses of Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Foster MP
Minister for Future Borders and Immigration