

Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

Humza Yousaf MSP Minister for Europe and International Development The Scottish Government c/o Clerk to the Committee Room T3.40 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP

By email

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20 January 2016

Dear Minister,

Re. Post Study Work Visas

As you are aware, the issue of a possible re-introduction of Post Study Work Visas along the lines of the previous Fresh Talent scheme has been a matter of debate in recent days. This followed the announcement by the Secretary of State for Scotland in a Written Statement to the House of Commons that "The Smith Commission did not recommend that the two Governments discuss the re-introduction of the former Tier 1 (Post Study Work) visa, and there is no intention to do so."

My Committee has agreed to look at this issue as part of our work programme relating to the passage of the Scotland Bill and we will be holding an evidence session on Thursday 28 January.

I would be keen to receive written evidence from both Governments and am therefore requesting information from you in advance of our meeting. I would be keen to know the views of the Scottish Government on the merits of introducing such a scheme, what dialogue you or your officials have had on this matter with the UK Government or others in Scotland and what your view is of the current position taken by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

I thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Crawford MSP

Convener