



Home Office

Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Immigration

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James Dornan MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2016 on behalf of the Education and Skills Committee of the Scottish Parliament. I am replying as the Immigration Minister. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Government is committed to working with you to ensure that the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) is designed in such a way that takes account of the distinctive Scottish approach to higher education so that Scottish providers who wish to take part are able to do so. We are pleased that the Scottish Government gave its consent for Scottish higher education providers to take part in TEF, if they wished to do so, and we are glad that five chose to do so.

As you will be aware, there have been regular discussions between the Department for Education and its opposite number in Scotland, as well as with representatives of Scottish universities, and a number of changes were made to the TEF assessment process to ensure that Scottish providers will be assessed fairly. We are committed to maintaining this constructive dialogue and the Scottish Government is represented on the TEF Delivery Group, the principal committee overseeing this initiative.

Regarding your specific question on migration, I am happy to confirm that we have no plans to cap the number of genuine international students who can come to the UK to study, nor to limit an institution's ability to recruit genuine international students, based on its TEF rating or any other basis.

Yours sincerely

Robert Goodwill MP

*& I recently saw some data showing how successful Glasgow University continues to be in attracting overseas students.
RG.*