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Mr Pierre Delingere
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Dear Mr Delingere

Thank you for your letter of 25th October to the First Minister. I have been asked to respond as my team has responsibility for replying to correspondence relating to migration.

I was very interested to learn of your organisation and your promotion of Brittany-Scotland exchanges.

As you may be aware, Scotland is an outward-looking and inclusive country which has benefited socially, economically, academically and culturally from students from the rest of the EU and from access to EU programmes. The Scottish Government therefore believes that EU membership is in the best interests of Scotland, its universities, and their staff and students.

As you note in your correspondence to Mr Barnier, we have confirmed that tuition fee funding to support eligible EU students already studying here, or preparing to start this year, will remain in place for the full term of their course. We have also provided a clear commitment regarding the continued free tuition fees for those eligible EU students applying to study in Scotland in 2017-18.

We are proud that Scotland is a destination of choice for students and academic staff from elsewhere in the UK, EU nations and all over the world. We are committed to ensuring this remains the case and we will explore every avenue to protect our relationship with the EU.

It is important to note that for now, immigration arrangements for EU nationals working and studying in Scotland under EU Freedom of Movement arrangements or under Erasmus+ remain unchanged.

The Scottish Government is exploring all options to protect Scotland from a hard Brexit that economists say will cost 80,000 Scottish jobs. Our five key interests are democracy, economic prosperity, social protection, solidarity, and influence. We will present a proposition



to protect Scotland's place in Europe in the coming weeks, focused on keeping us in the single market, even if the rest of the UK decides to leave. The democratic wishes of the people of Scotland and the national Parliament of Scotland cannot be brushed aside. The Prime Minister should live up to her promise to treat Scotland as an equal partner in the United Kingdom.

I hope this information has been helpful to you and thank you again for writing to the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Dickson
Migration Team