

Wednesday, 3 February 2016

Mr Crawford MSP
Convener, Devolution (Further Powers) Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Crawford MSP,

Universities Scotland is appreciative of the Committee's interest in the issue of post-study work visas for international students/graduates. Following the Committee's oral evidence session on 28 January we are writing to provide two further pieces of evidence which we hope will help to inform the Committee's work in this area.

They are:

1. An estimation of the economic cost to Scotland following the 2012 policy change to close the Tier 1 route for international graduates to work on completion of their studies. This was the subject of one of the final questions in the oral evidence session.

We conservatively estimate that Scotland has lost out a potential £254 million of direct additional income since 2012 as a result of the closure of this route. Please find more detail at annex A.

2. An outline of the elements that would be important to us in a new post study work policy either for Scotland or for the UK. We were asked to outline this by a Committee Clerk after the session. Please find this at Annex B.

I hope this information is of use. I would be pleased to provide further information on these points or answer any questions the Committee may have.

Yours sincerely,

Susannah Lane

Susannah Lane
Head of Public Affairs