23 July 2018

Dear Sajid,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Education Committee to ask that you add the teaching profession to the "shortage occupation list".

I recently backed the #LetThemTeach campaign after seeing the figures for the numbers of international teachers failing to secure UK visas. According to an investigation by Tes magazine, between December 2017 and April 2018 there were approximately 300 applications for certificates of sponsorship on behalf of teachers, but more than four-fifths of these were turned down.

UCAS figures in January showed that applications for teacher training were down by a third on last year. At the same time teachers are leaving the profession in worrying numbers. In order to prevent a further decline in teacher numbers we ask that you include the profession on the list, and stop non-EU international teachers from being turned away.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee