



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Minister of State for
Europe and the Americas

1 May 2019

Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee
Committee Office
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 2019 regarding the Seasonal Agricultural Workers pilot scheme in Moldova and Ukraine as part of your inquiry into *"the future of Scottish agriculture post-Brexit"*.

While it is for the Immigration Minister to comment on the overarching policy questions in your letter, I wanted to assure you that I take a close, personal interest in these issues. I am acutely aware of the role UK immigration policy plays in our relationship with third countries. Indeed, it is a topic I regularly encounter in my meetings with foreign counterparts.

Your letter raises problems that Pro-Force and Concordia claim to have encountered in securing support from British embassies. It is important to note that our embassies are not directly involved in the visa application process. It is the Home Office, through UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) who are solely responsible for the visa application process, including management of the visa application centres operated by UKVI commercial partners in Moldova and Ukraine.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP.

y - ever.
Alan

RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP