Martin Rhodes MP



Member of Parliament for Glasgow North House of Commons, London SW1A oAA

Susanne Millar Chief Executive's Office Glasgow City Council City Chambers George Square Glasgow Item 6(b)

11th September 2025

27.06.25

Web: martinrhodes.uk

Dear Ms. Millar,

G2 1DU

Thank you for your letter sharing the motion passed by Glasgow City Council regarding the UK Government's recent White Paper on immigration.

As Glasgow Labour MPs, we are proud to represent a city that has long demonstrated its commitment to being open, diverse, and welcoming - a city that has been enriched by migration: economically, socially, and culturally. We fully recognise the crucial contribution migrants make across our city, particularly in sectors such as health and social care, education, hospitality, and the wider economy and society.

We support the Government's objective of reducing net migration and increasing investment in domestic skills and workforce development. A rebalancing of the labour market, where long-term reliance on overseas labour is reduced, is a legitimate aim. However, this must be done carefully and fairly, with due regard for the needs of vital sectors and the realities of workforce shortages - particularly in social care.

The issues raised by the Council regarding workforce pressures and the need for adequate support for local authorities and care providers are well made. We support calls for greater investment in skills, training, and education, especially in the context of social care. Improving pay and conditions in the sector is essential if we are to attract and retain the staff needed to meet rising demand, and we are committed to seeing the Employment Rights Bill deliver meaningful improvements for care workers.

While we recognise the challenges facing the social care sector, it must also be acknowledged that the Scottish Government has consistently failed to adequately fund care services or deliver fair pay and conditions for the workforce. Care workers remain underpaid and undervalued, despite repeated commitments - and this has only deepened the recruitment and retention crisis. Long-term solutions are needed to tackle this workforce crisis, and this must involve proper investment in training, fair pay, and improved working conditions. The Scottish Government received a record level of funding this year through the block grant from the UK Government, it now needs to prioritise public services in its funding decisions.

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We recognise the importance of ensuring immigration policy reflects the distinct demographic and economic needs of cities like Glasgow. Immigration policy needs to be dynamic to address changing demographics and variations in needs in different times and places.

As MPs, we will continue to scrutinise the White Paper proposals as they develop, and to ensure that the voices of our constituents - and the needs of Glasgow - are heard. We are committed to ensuring that immigration policy is fair, humane, and economically sustainable.

Thank you again for your letter. We will share your concerns with colleagues in Westminster and continue to work in partnership with Glasgow City Council and others to promote policies that reflect the best interests of our city.

Yours sincerely,

Zubir AhmedMaureen BurkeGlasgow South WestGlasgow North East

Patricia FergusonJohn GradyGlasgow WestGlasgow East

Douglas McAllisterGordon McKeeWest DunbartonshireGlasgow South

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