Dear David,

Following the publication of our White Paper ‘Securing Wales’ Future’ in January, we signalled our intention to publish a series of further policy documents to extend the debate both here in Wales and the UK. The first of these policy documents, ‘Brexit and Devolution’, was published in June.

Today, the Welsh Government has published its second policy document in this series, ‘Brexit and Fair Movement of People’ which is enclosed. You will have received the Written Statement issued this morning, and I intend to make an Oral Statement to the Assembly during Plenary on 19 September.

This evidence based policy document builds on the high level policy approach to future migration that was outlined initially in our White Paper, ‘Securing Wales’ Future’. The document proposes a way forward in which Wales, and the UK, could continue to benefit from the huge contribution that people from other countries make to the economy and public services in Wales, alongside responding to concerns about aspects of inward migration. In doing so, it sets out a pragmatic and principled future migration policy, linked closely to employment and in which exploitation of workers is tackled properly. It has been informed by extensive stakeholder engagement on the importance of inward migration to the economy and public services in Wales, as well as expert advice and analysis on migration and tackling the exploitation of workers.

Our policy document is intended as a constructive contribution to the open debate that is needed across the UK on the UK’s future immigration policy. I believe the approach it outlines is one that could command wide support from people across Wales and the whole UK, and would provide a good basis for the UK’s negotiations with the EU on future migration between the UK and the EU.

7 September 2017
I look forward to discussing our proposals with you and your Committee in the near future.

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government