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E: [REDACTED]

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Our ref: 2017/0027877
22 August 2017

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 August to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport regarding trained doctors who are refugees and asylum seekers. I have been asked to reply [REDACTED]

Scottish Ministers recognise the important contribution refugees make to our communities and are committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers to integrate from day one of their arrival. However, I must note that asylum matters, including decisions relating to permission to work, are reserved to the UK Government and are handled by the Home Office. Unfortunately, the Scottish Government is unable to intervene in these matters.

In February, as part of work to support refugees in Scotland, the Scottish Government announced funding for The Bridges Programmes to help support refugee doctors: <https://beta.gov.scot/news/refugee-doctors-programme/>

The Refugee Doctors Project supports refugees and asylum seekers, who were fully qualified doctors in their home countries, to achieve General Medical Council registration and a licence to practise medicine and provides ongoing support and career planning as they begin careers in the NHS.

I recommend that the GP you met in Glasgow contacts the Bridges Programmes to find out more about the Refugee Doctors Project and discuss whether they can help. Bridges can be contacted on 0141 558 9749 or by email to admin@bridgesprogrammes.org.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about Bridges Programmes and their wider work please visit: <http://www.bridgesprogrammes.org.uk/>

I hope this information is helpful.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

