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Mr Patrick Yu
NICEM
(E-mail: Patrick@nicem.org.uk)

Our Ref: COR/1249/16

6 September 2016

Dear Mr Yu

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 July 2016 regarding the impact of the recent referendum on our migrant population.

While there may be a certain level of uncertainty following the referendum result there remains no excuse for racism in any of its manifestations. Ministers unequivocally condemn all racist attacks and strongly encourage all victims to report any racist incident, however minor.

The First Minister and deputy First Minister very much value and respect our minority ethnic communities. They enrich our lives and will continue to make a considerable contribution to our society in the future.

Ministers remain committed to the vision expressed in the Racial Equality Strategy of a society which is strengthened by its ethnic diversity, free from racism, and where we can share a common sense of belonging. This vision is unaffected by the result of the referendum.

We will consider the practical implications as new arrangements are negotiated and take effect. Indeed our officials, with other Executive Departments, are exploring options that will seek to provide recognition and reassurance to our migrant community.

We thank you for raising this issue and would be happy for you to share this response with your partner organisations.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Judith Wallwin in black ink.

JUDITH WALLWIN
PS/First Minister

Handwritten signature of Roisin Coleman in black ink.

ROISIN COLEMAN
PS/deputy First Minister