

# THIS IS A GUIDE FOR YOU TO WRITE TO YOUR MP>

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Insert your Name & Address

Dear [INSERT MP NAME]

### **Immigration Rules**

I refer to the statement of changes in immigration rules made on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 by Caroline Nokes, the Minister for Immigration.

I'm writing as a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish, Crosshill, Glasgow to request your support regarding recent changes to visa guidelines that will have a significant impact on Catholic priests coming into the UK.

Most Catholic dioceses have regularly used the Tier 5 Religious Worker visa route for priests to come here on supply-placements, while parish priests are away for short periods of time (such as for holidays, visits or retreats). These supply-placements are essential as they allow Catholics to continue attending Mass and receiving sacraments, while also keeping parish activities running smoothly; activities which benefit the whole community. My own parish has benefited from supply-placements for the past thirty years.

Under new guidance, priests on supply-placements will be required to use the Tier 2 Minister of Religion visa route. This will more than double the costs incurred by parishes, making supply-cover effectively unaffordable for some of those in poorer communities.

The Tier 2 Minister of Religion visa route also imposes strict language requirements. Even priests who have undertaken seminary formation in English may be required to sit an English language test before coming on supply-placements. This will have both practical and financial implications.

As I'm sure you will appreciate these changes are raising considerable concern in Catholic communities across the UK, including my own. I would be extremely grateful if you would raise this matter with the UK Government so that a reasonable solution can be found.

Yours sincerely





