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Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister for State for Immigration
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
3rd Floor Peel Building
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cc Joan McAlpine MSP

15 November 2018

Dear Caroline,

I am writing with regards to the Samuel family whose situation has come to my attention. I understand that the Samuels have been asked to leave the UK despite the fact that their youngest child John (now aged 12) was born here, they have settled here and are making a positive contribution to their local community.

I have been advised that the Samuels' daughter, Dami, has spent all her adult life in Britain and that prior to leaving school managed to secure a place to study midwifery. I greatly value all those who have the ambition and potential to make a valuable contribution to healthcare in Scotland, by joining our dedicated NHS workforce. However, due to the family's current situation, Dami has unfortunately been unable to take up her place.

The family have also been struggling to make ends meet and were featured on the BBC 1 programme Breadline Kids in February. Since then the Samuels have received enormous support from their local community which is a testament to how valued this family is.

It is of particular concern to me when I hear that young people, who entered this country legally as children, who have spent their formative years here, and who have the potential to make a valuable contribution to our society, are being served with removal notices. Notices which threaten to separate them from their friends, their communities, and their future careers.

Earlier this year Dami met then Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health, Shona Robison at the Scottish Parliament and Ms Robison and her fellow MSPs were impressed by Dami's courage in the face of her family's situation.

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I understand that Joan McAlpine MSP has written to MP for Dumfries and Galloway, Alister Jack and to the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, to ask you to reconsider the Samuels' case.

I understand that the case is currently under reconsideration. I would be grateful if, as part of this process, you will take into account the individual circumstances of the family and I would welcome information on your conclusions.

Yours,

Ben

Ben Macpherson
Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development

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