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Brexit: Implications for Government Policy on Unaccompanied Child Migrants

Thank you for contacting me about the implications of Brexit for UK policy on unaccompanied child migrants and the Dublin Regulation.

The Government has been clear that when we leave the EU it will seek to maintain a close and effective arrangement, including practical co-operation with the EU and member states on illegal migration and asylum. Combating illegal migration and having efficient and effective asylum systems must continue to be a priority for collaboration with our EU partners.

Ministers have been clear that as part of that arrangement, and subject to the negotiations, the UK will seek to agree with the EU a series of measures to allow unaccompanied children in the EU to join close family members who are themselves either lawfully resident or seeking asylum in the UK, or another EU member state, where it is in their best interests to do so. However, it is important to remember that any such agreement will require agreement and implementation by individual member states.

After the outcome of the negotiations is known, the appropriate legislation will be brought forward as necessary. The Government fully understands the strong desire felt by many to ensure that the appropriate systems are in place to allow unaccompanied children to reunite safely with close family members, either in the UK or in an EU Member State.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP