

**PE1429/C**

To,  
The Convener  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament

**07 August 2012**

**Subject: Reply to the Response Received from the Scottish Government, *in re* Petition PE1429**

Dear Sir,

It is an immense pleasure to write this letter to you for consideration *in re* document number PE1429/B. With reference to the response from the Scottish Government, I must state and request that the education must be available for all countries and considering the history and the comparative development of the region itself and the right to education must be protected by opening this avenue for the Pakistani students as well. When we consider the plight in Africa, we do not leave the continent to work alone, we help the less privileged countries of the continent and help and support them so that the world can move at the same pace.

The Committee may find it useful to consider the following statistics related to the international student community within the UK.

1. The UK Council for International Student Affairs identifies the following countries as Top non-EU sending countries of students

<b>Top 10 non-EU senders</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
<i>Canada</i>	5,905	5,575
<i>China</i>	67,325	56,990
<i>India</i>	39,090	38,500
<i>USA</i>	15,555	15,060
Pakistan	10,185	9,815

([http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/about/statistics\\_he.php#table4](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/about/statistics_he.php#table4)) accessed 07 August 2012

As is evident from the table above the number of students coming from Pakistan are well above that of Canada, but lower than that of other beneficiaries. It is therefore to be noted that Canada may not be seen as a top non-EU sender country and Pakistan may move well in place. Also from the table it is evident that the number of students may be less due to financial hardships and concerns.

2. The UK Parliament House of Commons, Home Affairs Committee report (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhaff/773/77312.htm>) Allocation of student visas by Nationality 2005-10, Accessed 07 August 2012

<b>Student Visas Issued</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<i>Canada</i>	2423	2549	2904	3266	3201	3503	17846
<i>China</i>	18182	21055	23727	27935	37235	44234	172368
<i>India</i>	16592	20579	22018	27871	58158	42545	187763
<i>USA</i>	8930	9111	11200	14268	14760	14477	72746
<i>Pakistan</i>	8639	11517	10426	7960	12657	24485	75684

The table shows the same arguments as placed in relevance to statistics table above.

3. Universities UK, *Patterns of higher education institutions in the UK*, 10<sup>th</sup> report holds the information on the *Non-UK domiciled students at UK higher education institutions by domicile, location of institution and qualification aim, 2008/09 as Appendix 2*

<b>Country</b>	<b>Total</b>	Higher degree (research)	Higher degree (taught)	Other undergraduate	First degree	Other Postgraduate
<i>Canada</i>	<b>5,350</b>	1,000	1,980	280	1,855	240
<i>China</i>	<b>47,035</b>	3,580	19,005	685	19,940	3,820
<i>India</i>	<b>34,065</b>	1,490	25,530	665	4,860	1,520
<i>USA</i>	<b>14,345</b>	2,615	5,230	375	3,410	2,710
<i>Pakistan</i>	<b>9,610</b>	1,160	4,825	260	2,985	375

As seen from the table above the number of *higher degree research* students from Pakistan is only very close to that of India, greater than that of Canada, but less than other beneficiaries. If this could be considered, it could be concluded that Pakistani students are more willing to pursue a UK degree than those from Canada.

While the Government is keen to extend the scholarship to other educational levels such as undergraduate and PhD courses as the response states the Government would be denying access to three educational levels for the developing countries.

As regards to the Scottish Government Economic Strategy, I would request the Committee to implore the Government to present evidence as to how the Saltire Scholarships may have contributed to the economic strategy post-award of candidates from the current beneficiaries.

The response has correctly identified the scholarships available to the International students, but these are not specific to any particular nationality, and beneficiaries from this scholarship have the opportunity to apply for these scholarships as well as the Saltire Scholarship.

If students from developing countries are not allowed open environment while decisions are made in the light of International frameworks, I am afraid that such students will never get a chance to study and have good relations as the beneficiaries do with the UK.

I am not sure when the developing world could contribute and add to the Scottish Economy, but I have believe that like all countries, the developing world needs support to become developed.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Wajahat Nassar  
Pakistan