**Work Permits for seasonal agricultural workers**

**Report for the Minister for Home Affairs**

On 13th November 2018, the Minister for Home Affairs signed [MD-HA-2018-0101](https://www.gov.je/Government/PlanningPerformance/Pages/MinisterialDecisions.aspx?docid=09AC232C-6463-42E6-9DFF-979DA4D41453). This amended the Immigration Work Permit Policy to allow, subject to satisfactory applications, the employment of up to 130 non-European Economic Area agricultural workers for a period not exceeding seven months.

Following further representations from the Jersey Farmers’ Union (JFU), the Minister has agreed to extend the period for which the 130 work permits can be issued up to a period not exceeding nine months. This accords with Article 4(3)(a) of the Immigration (Work Permits) (Jersey) Rules 1995 which state:

**4 Form and terms, etc. of work permit**

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), the period of time specified in a work permit shall not exceed –

1. in the case of seasonal or other short term employment, 9 months; and
2. in any other case, 3 years.

(4) The Minister may, in exceptional circumstances, authorize a period of employment not exceeding 5 years.

The JFU have confirmed that, under a 9 month permit, the employee(s) would be able to continue working, following the potato season, in the daffodil crop. In addition, it is expected that a nine month permit will assist the industry in attracting more highly skilled agricultural workers.

**Private Secretary to the Minister for Home Affairs**

**04 January 2019**