

BALANCED MIGRATION



Commenting on reports that the Government is considering plans to tighten immigration controls for non-EU students, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, said:

“This could be the first green shoot of a sensible immigration policy. Immigration controls need to be tightened up as the recession bites. We now need to see a detailed plan of action which goes beyond briefings designed to get headlines. Action on one policy would be welcome, but it is just a first step.”

Notes to editors

1. Last year some 50,000 non-EU citizens were given visas under Tier One of the Points Based System (and its predecessor, the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme).
2. Under the International Graduate Scheme, non-EU graduates are allowed to stay on in the UK and compete for work with British graduates – many of whom will have run up substantial debts to achieve their qualifications. Last year, 15,000 non-EU students were granted this permission.
3. The Rt Hon Frank Field MP and The Hon Nicholas Soames MP are Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration. The Group’s Vice-Chairmen are Lord (Bill) Jordan CBE (former President of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union) and Daniel Kawczynski MP (Conservative, Shrewsbury & Atcham). Other members include Tobias Ellwood MP, Roger Godsiff MP, David Taylor MP, Lord Ahmed, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) Baroness Cox, Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, GCB, PC, DL and Lord Skidelsky. Further members will be announced in due course.
4. “Balanced Migration – A new approach to controlling immigration” is available to download at www.balancedmigration.com.

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