



RESPONSE FROM FRANK FIELD TO COMMENTS BY HAZEL BLEARS ON WHITE WORKING CLASS

Commenting on Hazel Blears' reaction to the National Community Forum Report, '*Sources of resentment, and perceptions of ethnic minorities among poor white people in England*' (October 2008), Frank Field MP, Co-Chairman of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration said:

"Hazel Blears says that people on council estates feel ignored. That is exactly our point. And not only on council estates - 80% of the public want to see a substantial reduction in immigration, but the government refuses to address the issue.

"No wonder people feel the government is riding roughshod over their wishes, and not only in the poorest areas, which are bearing the brunt of the present massive level of immigration. Unless further action is taken soon, immigration will add nearly 10 million to the population of England in the next 20 years.

"If Labour wants to influence the outcome of the next general election, it had better start addressing white working-class concern about immigration, not simply reporting on it."

Notes to editors

1. 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.
2. On 10 November 2008 the Cross Party Group called for the Points Based System to be tightened in the light of the recession see:
<http://www.balancedmigration.com/pressreleases/Exposed-thousandsofBritishjobsgotonon-EUworkers-andnotonehastobeadvertisedintheUK101108.pdf>
3. "Balanced Migration – A new approach to controlling immigration" is available to download at www.balancedmigration.com.