

# BALANCED **MIGRATION**



## **Statement from Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, on today's unemployment figures:**

**17 September 2008**

“Unemployment has been rising steadily for 7 months. Meanwhile new Government figures, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the Government has given work permits to nearly 70,000 migrants over the last three years, none of whom had a job to go. We fully recognise that British companies need access to skilled labour – at least until British workers can be adequately trained – but at a time of rising unemployment, where is the sense in admitting people, however skilled, if they have no job to go?”

### **Notes to editors:**

1. The Report by the Migration Advisory Committee last week addressed only Tier Two, where workers must be sponsored by employers and there must be a vacancy for them (although if the occupation is declared as a “shortage occupation”, the need to advertise the vacancy locally is waived).
2. By contrast, the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme, now known as Tier One of the Points Based System, allows those with sufficient points to come to the UK and look for a job. There is no requirement that the job which they find should be skilled – although this will be taken into account if they wish to renew their permit. The number of HSMP/Tier One issued in recent years has nearly doubled, as follows:  
2005: 17,600  
2006: 21,940  
2007: 30,250
3. All those in Britain with a valid work permit have entitlement to the welfare state.