



15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009

## **Immigration a major reason for pressure on primary school places**

Ministers misleading the public

In advance of the Government's statement about extra funding for primary school places, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, said:

“The need to increase funding for primary schools is a direct result of mass immigration feeding into our population. The number of births to foreign mothers has risen by 65% since 2001 while the number of births to UK born mothers has only risen by 6.4%. This is a major reason for the pressure on our primary schools but the Government remain in denial about the consequences of their losing control of our borders. Instead they refer to “local circumstances”. This is deliberately misleading.”

Some key facts to illustrate the impact of immigration on births and education include the following:

- In England, the percentage of births to foreign born women has risen from 17.1 per cent in 2001 to 24.0 per cent in 2007. The proportion of births to foreign born women in England is not far off the level seen in traditionally high immigration countries such as Canada and Australia. In 2007 the proportion of births to foreign born women in Australia was 25.1 per cent, in Canada (in 2006) it was 25.4 per cent. (*ONS Population Trends No 136* page 35)
- In London, the percentage of births to mothers born outside the UK reached 54% in 2007; in inner London it was 60%. (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408>)
- Between 2001 and 2007, the number of local authorities with more than 50 per cent of births to foreign born women rose from 10 to 25. In 2007, over 70 per cent of births in Newham, Brent and Westminster were to foreign born women. (*ONS Population Trends No 136* page 36).
- The percentage of children for whom English is not a first language, in primary schools in England, has risen by almost 50% in the last 6 years – from 10.5% in 2003 to 15.2% in 2009 (*DCSF*).

## Notes to Editors:

1. The ten UK local authorities with the highest percentage of births to foreign women in 2001 and 2007 were found to be

2001		2007	
Local authority	Percentage of births to foreign born mothers	Local authority	Percentage of births to foreign born mothers
Tower Hamlets	67.6	Newham	74.8
Kensington and Chelsea	66.4	Brent	72.0
Westminster	64.1	Westminster	71.7
Newham	63.7	Kensington and Chelsea	68.6
Brent	62.6	Tower Hamlets	67.6
Camden	58.9	Ealing	65.2
City of London	58.5	Haringey	63.6
Haringey	55.7	Camden	62.0
Ealing	53.1	Harrow	61.0
Hackney	50.5	Hounslow	60.4

Source: Birth registrations

2. Population Trends 36 can be found at:  
[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_population/Popular-Trends136.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Popular-Trends136.pdf)
3. For media enquiries, please contact Patrick White on 020 7219 6636.
4. 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, Peter Kilfoyle MP, David Taylor MP, Robert Key MP, Colin Burgon MP, Lord Ahmed, Lord Anderson, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) Baroness Cox, Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, GCB, PC, DL, Lord Skidelsky, Lord Wakeham and Lord Ramsbotham.
5. For more information, please visit [www.balancedmigration.com](http://www.balancedmigration.com)