



## **IMMIGRATION WILL ADD ONE MILLION TO UK'S POPULATION IN THE NEXT PARLIAMENT**

### **New research reveals new pressures on public spending**

New research shows that immigration will add almost 1 million – equivalent to a city the size of Birmingham – to the UK's population during the course of the next Parliament. Overall, the UK's population will grow by almost 2 million over the next five years, even allowing for the recent, perhaps temporary, fall in immigration.

To reflect last year's expected decline in immigration, this estimate assumes that net migration will fall to 150,000 a year and stay there, compared to the current official assumption of 190,000 a year,. It also assumes a Total Fertility Rate of 1.95. The results show that the UK's population as a whole will grow by 1.96 million; immigration will account for 0.90 million.

The official population projections, due to be published on 21 October are likely to give a very similar result.

This finding comes as all the main political parties consider how best to address Britain's debt crisis.

According to the *Institute of Fiscal Studies*<sup>1</sup>, "we face the tightest squeeze on public services since the spending cuts negotiated with the IMF in the late 1970s". They added that, if the next Government chose to achieve the fiscal tightening over four years rather than eight, it would "need to cut Departmental Expenditure Limits by 7% a year in real terms to avoid the need for further tax increases or cuts in benefits."

Commenting, the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group for Balanced Migration, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, said

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<sup>1</sup> *Britain's Fiscal Squeeze – the Choices Ahead*. IFS September 2009  
<http://www.ifs.org.uk/bns/bn87.pdf>

“With a massive budget crisis staring us in the face it is obvious that there will be no money to provide the extra facilities required by another million people. The case for a really effective limit on immigration is overwhelming. Both parties must now decide on a limit and then tell the voters what it will be, how it will work and what it will cover.”

### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The government has promised not to allow the population to hit 70 million but has no policies to prevent this happening. Instead, they are simply in denial of their own official forecasts. They point to falling immigration but this is entirely due to East Europeans returning home because of the recession. Such a fall may, in any case, be temporary as proved to be the case in the last three recessions.
2. Net immigration has to be cut from the 2007 level of 237,000 to less than 50,000 a year if the 70 million mark is to be avoided. In his conference speech, Cameron spoke of the strains resulting from the present mass immigration and of the need for a limit. The key will be how this limit is defined - on that the Conservatives are keeping their cards very close to their chests.
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 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.
4. For more information, please visit [www.balancedmigration.com](http://www.balancedmigration.com). Media enquiries: please ring Patrick White on 020 7219 6636.