



Response to unemployment figures

21 January 2009

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

“Today's news ratchets up the pressure on the Government to ensure British workers get the first chance to apply for any new vacancy. Ministers are now talking about this partly, perhaps, because they will soon be obliged to admit that they issued a record number of work permits last year, just as the recession was beginning to bite. By November the total had already reached 150,000 of which 50,000 went to India. When are we going to see concrete measures to help British workers, rather than just talk?”

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. “Balanced Migration – A new approach to controlling immigration” is available to download at www.balancedmigration.com.

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