

BALANCED **MIGRATION**



PM'S 100,000 JOBS PLEDGE UNDERMINED BY JOBS FOR IMMIGRANTS

In advance of Monday's "jobs summit" at No 10, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, have written to the Prime Minister to highlight how the immigration system undermines the chances of British unemployed people getting the 100,000 jobs the Government intends to create.

Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP said:

"We welcome the Prime Minister's pledge to create 100,000 new jobs at a time when so many people are becoming unemployed. But the Prime Minister's good intentions are completely undermined by his own Government's immigration policy. In one of the worst recessions in living memory, it is unbelievable that we allow non-EU economic immigrants to come to look for work, or to take up jobs for which British unemployed people have not had the chance to apply. Unless the Government immediately reviews this work permit system so that British unemployed individuals have a first crack at all jobs that become available, how can the Prime Minister's emphasis on safeguarding the employment prospects for British workers be taken seriously?"

The text of the letter is attached.

The Cross Party Group has commissioned research into the weaknesses of the current immigration system, and the impact that these have on the labour market. The research can be found here:

<http://www.balancedmigration.com/briefingPapers/Toughening%20the%20PBS%2010%20November%202008.pdf>

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.

For interviews (media only) please contact

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The Rt Hon. Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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8th January 2009

Dear Gordon

Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration

We read with interest your plans to create 100,000 new jobs to help get people back to work during the recession.

You may be aware that, under the government's new Points Based System, work permits are granted to tens of thousands of so-called highly skilled migrants who are allowed to come to Britain to look for work without a job to go to. Thousands of other vacancies on the "shortage occupations" list can go to economic migrants without them first being advertised locally.

We believe that, in a recession, this cannot be allowed to continue. We should not be allowing non-EU economic immigrants to come to look for work, or to take up jobs for which the British unemployed have not had the chance to apply.

We urge you to review this work permit system so that British unemployed have a first crack at all jobs that become available. The government has trebled the number of permits issued, to a total of 130,000 work permits a year – 30,000 more than the number of jobs which you intend to create under the schemes now being suggested.

With best wishes and we look forward to hearing from you,



Rt Hon. Frank Field MP



The Hon. Nicholas Soames MP