

BALANCED MIGRATION



7 July 2009

Migration and social housing

Commenting on the Human Rights and Equality Commission report into the allocation of social housing, the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, said:

“The elephant in the room is the huge impact of migration on overall demand for housing. The Government has lost control of immigration, and does not have a housing policy to cope with the consequences. Immigration now accounts for nearly 40 per cent of new households. The waiting lists for social housing in England have risen by 60 per cent in six years and now include nearly 5 million people. Looking ahead, official statistics show that we will have to build a new home every five minutes for the next twenty years or so just for future migrants. With public spending under such pressure, the first step must be to reduce this major source of housing demand.”

Official figures released a fortnight ago showed that the projected number of households in England will rise from 21.52 million (2006) to 25.44 million in 2021. This is a rise of almost 4 million households in 15 years. According to Government forecasts, 70% of the population increase up to 2031 will be due to immigration. The largest single reason for household formation is immigration, which will account for almost 40% of all new household formation in England. More details can be found here <http://www.balancedmigration.com/pressreleases/Pressreleaseonregionaltrends240609.pdf>

Notes to editors

1. For media enquiries, please contact Patrick White on 020 7219 6636.
2. 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, Lord Ahmed, Lord Anderson, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) Baroness Cox, Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, GCB, PC, DL, Lord Skidelsky and Lord Wakeham.
3. For more information, please visit www.balancedmigration.com