

# BALANCED **MIGRATION**



## **Minister misunderstands proposals**

**8 September 2008**

Commenting on Liam Byrne's reaction to the formation of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, Frank Field and Nicholas Soames said:

'It is astonishing that a government Minister should rush to reject a new approach to immigration which he has quite clearly not understood.

What Ministers fail to understand is that our proposal will both give industry access to the skills it may need from overseas while stabilising the growth in our population. We are not suggesting a cap on economic migrants. What we are suggesting is a cap on the number allowed to settle here permanently. It is this that is driving the massive growth in our population.

The government's answer seems to be more committees and more bureaucracy. That is no answer to the huge majority of the public (85 %), of whatever background, which our YouGov poll today shows to be in favour of a very substantial reduction in immigration. Indeed 57% think that even balanced migration sets too high a level of immigration.

It is time for new thinking, not old slogans if genuine public concerns are to be met.'