

BALANCED **MIGRATION**



REVEALED: THE UK'S POPULATION TIMEBOMB

New research shows the Government has no hope of keeping the UK's population below 70 million

Cross Party Group issues new call for immediate action

New research published today reveals the UK's ticking population timebomb: our population is now firmly on track to grow to 70 million by 2028. 70 per cent of this growth - the equivalent of seven cities the size of Birmingham - will be thanks to immigration. Using the Government's own figures, the research shows that even if net migration was cut by 180,000 from the most recent level of nearly 240,000 to 60,000 a year, England's population would grow by nearly 10 million later in this century – almost all of it in England – roughly equivalent to adding the population of Sweden to that of England. To hold the population to 65 million would require a reduction in net immigration to close to zero, as the Cross Party Group has recommended, – that is to the migration levels of 1991-3. Even with this reduction the population of England would grow, adding almost the population of Scotland.

The Government have promised that they will not let the population hit 70 million. They claim that their new Points Based System will control the numbers. Immigration would have fallen by about 12,000 last year if its new measures had been in place. Today's research shows, however, that immigration needs to fall by 180,000 if the population is not to hit 70 million. Even eliminating all work permits would not, of itself, suffice.

The research was prepared by Migrationwatch at the request of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration. Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, the Co-Chairmen of the Group, said:

"As a nation, we cannot afford to let our population grow at the extraordinary pace now officially forecast. The pressures on our public services and communities would be too great to bear. This timebomb must be defused - and that requires radical action, now. Government claims that they are taking effective action are no more than a gigantic bluff. They should make a New Year's resolution to act immediately to get immigration sharply down."

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

Patrick White: 0207 219 6636
07984 183 257

For further details, please email: info@balancedmigration.com