

Controlling Migration

Constituents' Questionnaire

Please read this first before answering the questions

In January this year the European Union granted Bulgaria and Romania full rights as EU member countries – just like Poland, Italy, Spain etc. This means that people from Bulgaria and Romania are able to travel freely throughout all member countries without the need for visas. Before January Britain had to decide if these people would also be able to work freely in our country or if we should impose some restrictions.

There are reasons both in favour and against imposing restrictions. The task was to make the best decision for our country and our economy whilst weighing up pros and cons on each side of the debate.

For example, it is suggested that workers with low skills coming into our country pushes wages down – they are often prepared to work for less money as the wages available in Britain are normally higher than in their own countries.

At the same time, though, immigrant workers help our economy to grow whilst keeping inflation low. And the more people working and paying tax the more money there is to pay for our public services and pensions, but it may also be the case that immigrant workers cost more in services than they pay for in taxes.

However, it is also argued that migrant workers take jobs from British citizens leading to higher unemployment amongst British people. A counter argument to this is that often they take the jobs that we wouldn't want to do. And often there are skills gaps in our own labour market, such as the example of NHS doctors mentioned in the letter, that trained and skilled workers from other countries could fill.

If we place restrictions on workers coming into the United Kingdom we can retain some control over who is here and what they do. But, if we restrict their ability to work here we may force them into illegal working after arriving here as a tourist, benefiting employers who are prepared to exploit illegal workers, paying them very low wages and depriving the government – and thus us as UK citizens – of tax revenue to pay on public services.

There might be a negative impact on local communities as people with different languages and cultures move here. For many, though, a varied community with different nationalities and cultures living and working side-by-side is seen as a positive.

So the government decided on a compromise where we set restrictions on the numbers of workers coming from Bulgaria and Romania at 20,000 who worked in certain sectors such as agriculture, for up to five years.

Now please answer the following questions.

Migration: Constituents' Questionnaire

1. Was the government right to set limits on the number of people from Bulgaria and Romania who have an automatic right to work here

Automatic rights Limits

2. Given that there are limits how should we impose it – certain people, certain jobs, a mixture or something different altogether?

- a) A quota to be agreed each year for the total number of people from each country who can come here to work

Yes No

- b) A quota based on the jobs that need to be done in our economy and where there is difficulty in recruiting local workers – for example seasonal agricultural labour, food processing

Yes No

- c) A quota based on the need for workers to move from one area to another in the construction industry

Yes No

- d) A quota based on skills – for example professionally qualified people, doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants etc

Yes No

Use this space to give any other ideas of your own for setting limits on immigrant workers

3. Is it right that we should penalise employers who give jobs to people who are here illegally?

Yes No

4. Who should bear any costs of checking the employment status of immigrant workers?

Employer Worker Government

5. Should the same rules also apply to colleges who take on overseas students?

Yes No

6. It has been suggested that we would need a body to look at all the different employment needs in our economy and to investigate where there might be shortages of available workers or where there aren't enough jobs. Do you think this is a good idea?

Yes No

7. Should this body be an independent commission made up of a cross section of business people, churches, trade unions and experts, or made up of elected politicians from all political parties?

Independent

Elected but including all political parties at Westminster

8. The government has promised to bring in Identity Cards to stop fraud and help keep our borders more secure. Should we bring forward our plan and start with foreign nationals or wait until ID cards can be issued to everyone?

Start with foreign nationals

Wait until everyone can have one

9. Do you think that there are benefits for local communities with people from different cultures and countries moving in to work here?

Yes No

If you want, you can use this space to give a little more information why you think that?

10. Do you think there should be an English language test for all new workers who apply for British citizenship?

Yes No

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11. Controlling migration is such an important issue that I want to be able to come back and seek the views of local people about how migration is affecting things like housing, schools, hospitals. I am looking for people to volunteer to serve on a local panel of residents or to take part in further surveys. By ticking the boxes below, please let me know if you would like to be considered.

I'd like to be considered as a panel member. I confirm I would participate in four discussion meetings a year.

I'd like to be sent regular questionnaires to fill in so I can give you my views.

I would prefer you to

Write to me

Email me at the following email address

Both

I'd like to be included on your list of people to phone and consult on topical issues. My phone number is

I'd like you to keep me informed regularly about your work for your constituents here in North East Somerset

Thank you for taking the time to give me your views. All you have to do now is fill in your name, address and phone number below and send it back to me. Please send your completed form to Dan Norris MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.



Dan Norris MP

Your name
Address
Post code
Phone number:
Home
Mobile