



Home Office

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Sir Michael Scholar
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
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Dear Sir Michael,

COMMENTS ON MIGRATION STATISTICS

Thank you for your letter of 11 October. It is important that we have a healthy debate on the issue of migration. I note that you mention in your reply to Mr Cavanagh that there is room for different interpretation of trends in net migration and that in political debate this is something that has to be accepted.

I am glad you agree that there have been marked increases in net migration since the early 1990s.

This Government has made sweeping changes to get a grip on immigration in this country, closing down routes that were subject to abuse and taking action against those with no right to be here. This is in line with what the public want us to be doing. There is much more to be done and we will stick to our course.

Home Office statisticians regularly meet with their opposite numbers in the Office for National Statistics and there is constant review of the commentary that appears both in the Home Office and ONS statistical releases. I understand that the most recent discussions between them have focused on the importance of presenting the latest figures in the context of both long-term and short-term trends for future releases.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Green