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You may have read in the Telegraph on the 6th of September an article written by the Immigration Minister James Brokenshire entitled 'Calais crisis: 'Britain is no soft touch when it comes to illegal immigration'. In it, the Minister says:

"By reforming family and work visa routes, cracking down on abuse in the student sector, and cutting access to benefits for migrants we have cut net migration by a quarter since its peak under Labour."

I am concerned that this is an incorrect use of ONS data and I hoped you might be able to advise. It is true that the figures of net migration have moved due to changes made since 2010, but I am concerned the Minister's statement is potentially misleading as the Government have not "cut" the difference between net migration at its peak and now. As you know from ONS data, net migration started to fall from its peak before this government took office in 2010, and the level of net migration now is actually the same since as before the government began "reforming family and work visa routes."

I am concerned that through this type of statement it gives the impression that government action has led to a fall in net migration, whereas the ONS figures show it remains at the same level as when they started in office. I would appreciate if you were able to offer your confirmation on whether net migration has been cut by a quarter since this government took office in 2010, or whether as I suspect it remains at the same level and this is a misleading statement.

Thank you for your help,

David Hanson MP
Shadow Minister for Immigration

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