
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Sheila Gilmore MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

21 October 2014

Dear Ms Gilmore,

IMMIGRATION FROM OUTSIDE THE EU

Thank you for your letter dated 30 September 2014 regarding the comment below made by the Home Secretary to the Conservative Party Conference on the same date about trends in the level of immigration from outside the EU:

“Because of European free movement rules, overall immigration is still too high. But where we can control immigration we are controlling it, and immigration from outside Europe is down to the levels of the 1990s.”

ONS publishes Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates of immigration, emigration and net migration. The latest available provisional estimates published by ONS show that the estimated number of non-EU citizens migrating¹ to the UK in the year ending March 2014 was 265,000, with a margin of error of +/- 19,000².

The graph and data table overleaf show the estimated number of non-EU citizens who migrated to the UK between 1991 and 2014.

The graph shows that between 1991 and 1997 the estimated level of long-term international migration of non-EU citizens to the UK was broadly stable, and that it rose substantially in the period 1998 to 2000. The current level of long-term immigration of non-EU citizens is similar to the level seen in 1999, but higher than in the earlier years of that decade.

Yours sincerely,

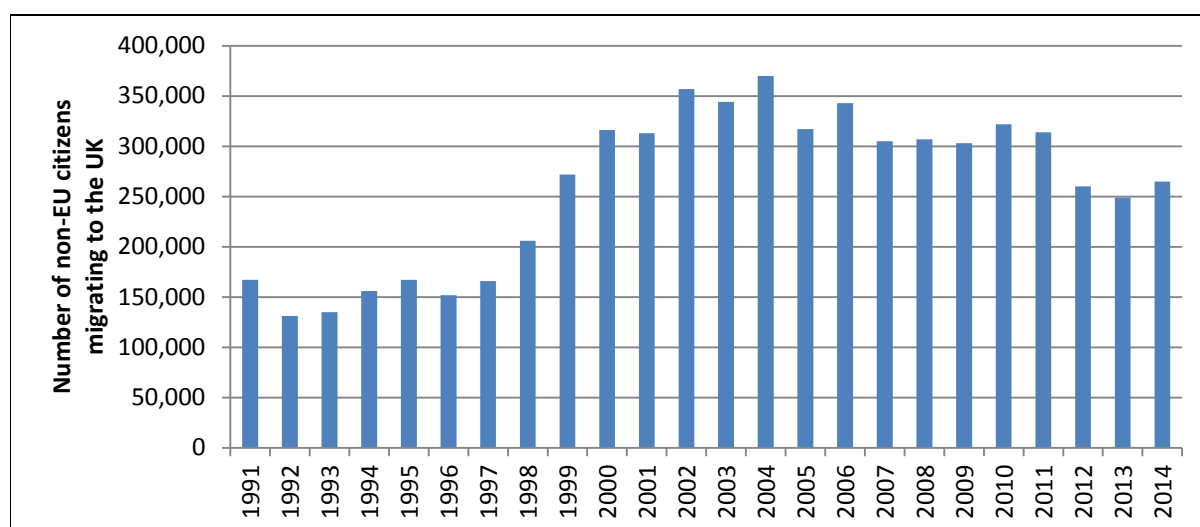


Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

¹ The UN recommendation for defining an international long-term migrant is used. That is, a migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

² The LTIM estimates are published alongside their margin of error which refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval, and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample.

Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates of non-EU immigration to the United Kingdom, annual totals, 1991 – 2014



Calendar Year	Non-EU immigration: Citizens
1991	167,000
1992	131,000
1993	135,000
1994	156,000
1995	167,000
1996	152,000
1997	166,000
1998	206,000
1999	272,000
2000	316,000
2001	313,000
2002	357,000
2003	344,000
2004	370,000
2005	317,000
2006	343,000
2007	305,000
2008	307,000
2009	303,000
2010	322,000
2011	314,000
2012	260,000
2013	249,000
2014	265,000

Notes:

1. 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

2. 2014 data are for year-end April, all other data are year-end December

Source:

ONS, Table 2.01a LTIM Citizenship, 1991-2012, November 2013, available from:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/2012/table-2-01a.xls>,

ONS, Table 1, Long-Term International Migration, Rolling annual data to year-end March 2014, August 2014

available from: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2014/rft-table-1---provisional-estimates.xls>