

Sir Andrew Green K.C.M.G
Weston House
Deddington
OX15 0TG
Tel/Fax: 01869 337837
e-mail; afgreen@btconnect.com

29 August 2014

Dear Sir Andrew,

The contribution of immigration to UK population growth

Thank you for your letter of 6 August.

Having looked carefully at the ONS document to which you referred us we were rather puzzled.

On page 4 of the National Population Projections 2012 Statistical Bulletin it the statement that:

'Of the 5.4 million natural increase projected between mid-2012 and mid-2037, only 3.8 million would occur if net migration were zero at each and every age throughout the projection period (Table 3). Thus, about 60 per cent of the projected increase in the population over the period mid-2012 to mid-2037 is either directly attributable to future migration (43 per cent), or indirectly attributable to the effect of fertility and mortality on these future migrants (17 per cent).'

Table 3 below the text shows that the total growth is 9.6 million. The growth due to net migration is 4.2 million. The total natural increase is 5.4 million. The natural increase from migration is 1.6 million (5.4 - 3.8). Therefore the total immigration effect is $4.2 + 1.6 = 5.8$ which is about 61% of 9.6.

What your staff seem to have done is to add to the 4.2 million immigrants not the immigration - dependent natural increase of 1.6 million but the 3.8 million natural increase of the non-immigrant population. $4.2 + 3.9 = 8.0$ which, of course, is 83% of 9.6.

May I ask you, therefore, to confirm that our understanding is correct and that the ONS have not, as yet, indicated to the general public that the medium term impact of immigration is over 80% ?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.F. Green', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

(A.F. Green)

Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE,
Chairman,
Statistics Authority.