



Home Office

Science and Research Group
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Our Ref
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Date 25 February 2008

Abigail Armstrong
Statistics Commission
HM Treasury
Room G / 07
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Abigail,

You requested my comments on the points raised by Andrew Green in his letter to the Statistics Commission dated 17 December. Thank you for the opportunity to make to you some points of clarification about the statistics used and to suggest factual corrections to some of the points that Andrew Green makes.

The 2005 total international migration (TIM) statistics published by ONS in November 2006 (since revised) do breakdown as Sir Andrew writes. Applying the component levels to the total *net* migration figure gave the following:

Category	Volume	Percentage
British	<i>Minus</i> 107,000	<i>Minus</i> 58%
EU25	<i>Plus</i> 89,000	<i>Plus</i> 48%
Non-EU 25	<i>Plus</i> 204,000	<i>Plus</i> 110%
Total	<i>Plus</i> 185,000	<i>Plus</i> 100%

This presentation uses a mixture of positive and negative component figures of the total. In recent months to improve our presentation of the statistical arguments and to make them more easily understood, we have moved to using gross inflows alone. This seems appropriate since the discussions about “caps” and the points based system (PBS) will be focussed on inflows alone and not outflows or net flows.

We have also more recently confined our attention to the International Passenger Survey (IPS) data published by the ONS, because these are available broken down by both citizenship and reason for travel – basically for reasons of work, study, accompanying another traveller or joining a family in the UK, and “other”. The categories omitted from the TIMS data, by the IPS, are then the Irish, asylum



seekers, and migrant and visitor switcher adjustments.

We are also now omitting the British component from our calculations of the percentages of those affected.

The table below shows the latest data from the 2006 IPS.

International migration estimates from the International Passenger Survey: annual data 2006

	United Kingdom Thousands
Total inflow	529
Of which British Citizen	77
Total inflow (exc British)	452
Of which EU25 nationals (exc British)	136
Of which Non-EU25 (exc British)	315
Non EU25 (exc UK) Main reason for migration:	
Non-EU25 coming for purposes of work	101
Non-EU25 coming for purposes of study	114
Non-EU25 coming for other purposes (inc no reason stated)	27
Non-EU25 dependants (Accompanying / Joining)	74

Notes: Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of rounding

I now consider the statistical aspects of the comments made in Andrew Green's letter.

On the IPS basis, as set out in the table, the majority of the gross inflow, and also the non-British inflow by extension, is clearly from *outside* the EU - 315,000 out of 529,000 (incl. British) or 315,000 out of 452,000 (excl. British).

Sir Andrew is quite wrong to say these calculations are on the basis of unpublished data. The ONS publishes the IPS data necessary to produce these calculations on its website. In 2007 this was part of the suite of data published alongside the TIM estimates. The Excel spreadsheet, published by ONS, shows data for 1991 to 2006.

Sir Andrew is wrong to say that no account is taken of dependants in these calculations. From the table above, it can be seen that they form an important component of the denominator.

I do not consider that the statistics published by the ONS or the statements recently made that use these figures are misleading. Indeed they clearly make reference, as appropriate, to either net migration or inflows. To answer, Andrew Green's specific questions at the end of his letter, I would answer:

- the proportion of inflows to the UK from outside the EU in 2006, based on IPS data, is around 60% including British arrivals and around 70% excluding British arrivals; and
- the proportion of non-EU immigration, in 2006, that was work related was 22%.



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