



Minister admits that immigration is of little benefit to Britons

In a recent debate in Parliament a Home Office Minister gave the first official estimate of the benefits of immigration.

Joan Ryan said that “the Treasury estimates that migration has increased output by at least £4 billion and attributes 10 – 15% of economic trend growth to immigration.”¹

What she failed to say is that immigration also adds to population to the same extent so the benefit in terms of GDP per head is roughly zero – that is there is no significant benefit to the host population. (*see calculation below*).

This is further confirmation of the statement by Professor Robert Rowthorn that “all the research suggests that the benefits (of large scale immigration) for the existing population as a whole are either close to zero or negative.” (Telegraph 2 July 2006)

Calculation:

£ 4 bn of out put on a GDP of approx 1250 is 0.32%

Net immigration in 2004 of 222, 000 on a population of 60 m is 0.37%

Trend growth is 2.5%. 15% of that growth is 0.375%

Thus on both measures quoted, the benefit per head is close to zero or negative. The major benefit goes to immigrants – which is why they come.

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¹ Hansard 18 Oct 2006 Column 288 WH