



Immigration and Brexit

A summary of our recent work

European Union: MW 394

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In view of the government's silence on their Brexit work, we have published our own suggestions on immigration.

We believe that the best approach would be to **extend our existing system of work permits to skilled workers from the EU**. Around 30,000 would be required to meet the needs of business and to allow for some expansion

If this scheme was confined to skilled workers we estimate that it could **reduce net EU migration by around 100,000 a year** – an estimate that has not been seriously challenged.

We have suggested that the government should avoid offering **concessions on immigration** in exchange for concessions on trade matters and we do not believe that an emergency brake is feasible or desirable. There may be a case for limited and temporary schemes such as the **Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme**. We have also considered the impact of leaving the EU and an end to free movement of people on **the population of Scotland** as well as the **economic impact**.

More generally we have published a list of the **ten broad objectives** that the government might adopt on immigration matters.

19th December, 2016