



Home Office

Phil Woolas MP
MINISTER OF STATE

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Chris Grayling MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

26 FEB 2010

Dear Chris,

At Home Office Question Time on Monday 8 February 2009, you posed two questions, to which I stated that I would write with a response. I am pleased to be in a position to address the questions.

(1) How many students have been prosecuted for working in excess of the permitted 20 hours per week?

It is not possible to confirm the total number of students who have been prosecuted for working more than 20 hours.

Where we find foreign students that are in the UK who are not here to genuinely study, including those who break the rules on number of working hours, or those who have overstayed their entitlement, we will look to remove them.

The most recent figures show almost 68,000 illegal immigrants were removed or left the UK voluntarily in 2008 (67,980).

(2) How many failed asylum seekers, with no outstanding appeal rights, remain in the United Kingdom?

Since the abolition of embarkation controls it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the appeal rights exhausted asylum seekers who remain in the UK and have not yet been removed. It is also possible that many failed asylum have voluntarily departed without informing UKBA.

We are rolling out the e-Borders system which will enable the UK Border Agency to check people against watch-lists before they enter the UK and will also enable us to count people in and out of the country. The e-Borders system will count all passenger and crew movements in and out of the UK by March 2014, and 95% by December 2010. We have already checked over 148 million and this has led to over 5,100 arrests for crimes such as murder, rape and assault.

We are also removing the pull factors by promoting employer compliance (civil penalties and employer marketing) and tough in-country enforcement to scoop up those who are here illegally.

More people were removed or voluntarily departed in 2008 (nearly 68,000) than in any other year since 2002 (68,630), including a record number of foreign prisoners (around 5,400).

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Woolas', written in a cursive style.

Phil Woolas MP