

# Lord Wallace of Saltaire



## *Government Whips Office* *House of Lords*

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Baroness Valentine  
House of Lords  
London  
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9 November 2010

*Dear Jo,*

### **IMMIGRATION DEBATE ON 21 OCTOBER**

During the debate on 21 October you made a valuable point about British workers being able to compete with their continental European counterparts and the importance of apprenticeships, job –related training and a focus on employability in our education system.

I was unable to get round to responding to your point in my reply but should like to do so now. We entirely agree that we have to kick-start the skills systems in this country and do more to meet recruitment needs from within the resident labour market. The Government plainly has an important role in stimulating action to get people into or back to work and provide business with the skills they need in future from the British workforce. Alongside this, we believe action is also needed to encourage employers to take responsibility and ownership for improving the attractiveness of jobs in their sectors, for tackling issues such as low pay and poor working conditions and for investing in training for their staff.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

*Yours,*

*Wallace*

**LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE**