

Lord Wallace of Saltaire



Government Whips Office *House of Lords*

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Lord Turnberg
House of Lords
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9 November 2010

Dear Lord Turnberg,

IMMIGRATION DEBATE ON 21 OCTOBER

During the debate on 21 October you asked a question I was unable to get round to in my response but should like to do so now.

You asked whether the Government would look again at how limits on migration could be made less damaging to scientific research.

I understand that there is uncertainty at the moment about the precise details of how next year's limit will operate, and that uncertainty is leading some scientific research organisations to speculate that the limit may prevent them from recruiting the best scientists from around the world. This will not be the case.

We have always said that there will still be room for top scientists and other workers with key skills, but that is not incompatible with having a limit. Our limit will not be arbitrarily imposed. What we will no longer do is admit migrant workers to do jobs that could be done by UK workers.

We have received a high volume of responses to our consultation on how next year's limit should operate, including over 60 from recognised research centres and universities. We are considering these responses carefully and we will announce our decisions in due course.

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

Yours sincerely,
William Wallace

LORD WALLACE OF SALTAIRE