

The Earl Attlee TD



*Government Whips Office*  
*House of Lords*  
*Telephone 020 7249 3131*

The Lord Rosser  
House of Lords

29 November 2010

*Dear Richard,*

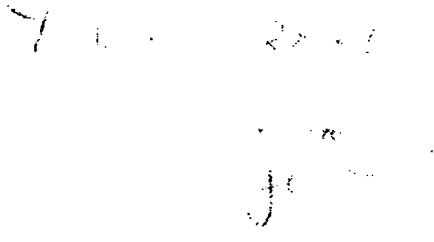
During the debate of 8 November on the Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, I promised to respond in writing to any questions I did not answer. You asked two questions which I did not answer during the debate and I am now writing to respond.

You asked about the impact of the proposed cap on migration on the numbers of people extending under these regulations. During the course of the debate I stated that the estimated number of biometric residence permits that would be issued under these regulations was in the region of 80,000. However, this estimate is based on historical figures (July 2009 – June 2010) and did not take account of the Government's plans to implement permanent limits to reduce net migration from April 2011. There is currently an interim limit on initial out of country Tier 1 and some Tier 2 applications which will run until 31 March 2011 when a permanent limit will be implemented.

You also asked about the Impact Assessment and how, in general terms, the social costs and reduction in benefits fraud were calculated. For social costs the UK Border Agency used a survey of potential applicants, analysis of postcodes and location of enrolment centres to develop a profile of average distance travelled for biometric enrolment. A financial value was then developed based on cost per mile per distance from nearest biometric enrolment centre and average cost per hour of someone's time for time spent travelling and in the actual enrolment centre.

For the reduction in benefits fraud, it was assumed that biometric residence permits would provide clear and verifiable evidence of entitlement to receive benefits in the UK and would help reduce the proportion of foreign nationals who attempt to or succeed in committing benefit fraud. Such a reduction would result in an economic benefit equivalent to at least the value of the benefits that they would have fraudulently claimed. The Impact Assessment was cleared with the Home Office Chief Economist as part of the usual clearance process.

I hope this fully addresses the questions you raised. I have sent a copy of this letter to the Chair of the Committee and those who attended the debate and arranged for a copy to be placed in the library of the House of Lords.

  
EARL ATTLEE