



IPPR Proposal for Regional Work Permit System



Summary

1. The IPPR proposal for a regional immigration system is incompatible with a target for net migration, a manifesto commitment on which they won a majority in the 2015 General Election. The proposal would likely lead to a rise in net migration, with significant implications for population growth and public service provision against the wishes of the public. The proposal would require a total overhaul of the immigration system and the establishment of at least thirteen individual immigration services across the country administered by regional government that has no previous experience dealing with immigration or labour market needs. This would lead to chaos and confusion. The new system could not protect the domestic labour force due to a lack of a resident labour market test, a minimum income or a minimum skills threshold and could be used by employers to keep wages low.

IPPR Contributions

2. Since the referendum result, the IPPR has made a number of contributions to the debate on the future of EU immigration control when the UK leaves the EU. In the immediate aftermath, the IPPR suggested that the UK seek to negotiate an emergency brake on EU migration which would be triggered when wages in particular sectors, locations or occupations were harmed.¹ If the brake was triggered it was proposed that restrictions would be in place on the number or type of migrants permitted to work in the affected sector.

3. The IPPR has also proposed a regional immigration policy. The two proposals are distinct and in our view cannot both be implemented. This note analyses the latter proposal.

IPPR Proposal for a Regional Immigration System

4. The IPPR propose that when the UK leaves the European Union, free movement should continue for EU citizens with the exception of those wishing to work in the UK.

1 <http://www.ippr.org/blog/what-new-deal-should-we-strike-with-the-eu>