

Policy Discussion Paper No.2

Border Controls

Introduction

This paper introduces new ideas for the way our borders should be controlled for both people and trade, noting that existing immigration procedures have been a complete failure and that tariffs will have to be charged and paid from 1st January 2021 to reinvigorate our economy (see previous paper).

People – Visitors

Visitors should be allowed up to three months each year free. They must be booked in and out so that we know immediately who has overstayed. Overstayers should be named and shown on the internet with a reward offered for any information leading to their arrest.

Unless they are on a security list visitors need not be stopped on entry other than to ensure we have their correct identity details. They may opt for a smart card, like an Oyster card, which allows them to come and go efficiently. They should be allowed to 'top up' their card for a fee to stay for up to nine months and be allowed to work. This would address the needs of back-packers and seasonal workers as well as frequent travellers.

People – Foreign Residents

I propose a Quota and Auction system rather than a points-based system. We have had points-based systems in the past and none have worked as a way of limiting total numbers. They are merely designed to limit the number who end up on welfare, which is a completely different objective. It is even a failure in Australia in this regard. Policy would be to limit absolute numbers to perhaps 20,000 a month, but of course the system would be able to accommodate alternative levels depending on current government policy.

A Q&A system has the following advantages:

- 1). It creates an open competitive market for the skills we need avoiding bureaucratic miscalculation and misjudgement,
- 2). It allows others to come in for any reason if they can afford the quota price,
- 3). It is bullet-proof in that if refugees and illegals are discovered and can't be sent back for whatever reason they can be allocated quota without payment which then reduces the balance of quota available for that month,
- 4). It presents employers with a market price to bring in foreign workers. This gives British workers, particularly those who have traditionally found it difficult to find work, such as ethnic minorities, the disabled or veterans, a fair competitive advantage.

Under a Q&A system all potential immigrants would require a British sponsor, who would be responsible for paying the quota as well as health and benefits insurance. Each visa would be for a maximum of four years, but could be shorter for a pro-rata reduction in the quota fee. Visitors would be able to top-up their cards at the going quota rate without using up any of the quota itself. The quota would be monthly, and could be varied if desired, with several months ahead open for bidding online at the same time. Quota prices would vary by month and within months depending on the balance of supply and demand for that month at that time.

At the end of four years the visa could be renewed by any British sponsor for a 25% discount provided the visa holder had not claimed benefits not refunded by insurance, or been detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. Visa holders would have a right to claim benefits if needed through the DWP on presentation of their visa details. After eight years the discount would be 50%, twelve 75% and after sixteen they would have the right to apply for citizenship.

People – Refugees and Illegals

I advocate the long-lease as British sovereign territory of a substantial tract of flat, fertile and temperate land well away from Europe where we can run a civilized, open colony for this group. It can be funded from the overseas aid budget and residents could be given the same level of support as they would have received in the UK itself. It would **not** be any form of penal colony or internment camp. It could develop its own economy for those who stay using benefits as seed corn and the host country's currency with whom it would trade.

It is possible that St. Helena would suffice as an initial location, giving us time to identify, negotiate and develop a larger area if the flood of refugees does not diminish. They would be flown straight out there on discovery and could do all their appealing from there. Refugees would probably remain and illegals drift away depending on the border requirements of the host country, or otherwise they could be flown on request to whatever destination will accept them provided it is outside Europe.

Goods Inwards

I envisage charging tariffs on imports and providing a pre-declaration system online so that minimum inspections are required. Those who do not use the system can expect delays. The system will provide an invoice for any customs duty due in advance of arrival at the port of embarkation. Payment can then be made on account at the end of the month as is normal business practice. Customs at the UK port of entry will only have to check passports and other existing documentation as now and then just check that a copy of this invoice is filed online. Returning tourists could have access to the system via their mobile phones.

There is concern also that existing checks on contraband, drugs, weapons etc. are not strong enough. Anyone who has watched a Douane man in France inspecting a lorry

awaiting embarkation to the UK will know what I mean. He has a long ladder which he props up against the left-hand rear door of the lorry and instructs the driver to open the right-hand door. He then climbs up his ladder, gets out his torch, has a peer round the corner into the lorry, waves his torch around for a bit and that's it! There could be anything down the other end of that lorry! And whatever happened to cameras set into the road to inspect the underneath for immigrants? Never seen one.

I suggest that a sample of full inspections is carried out at those lorries' destinations so they can be inspected when they are unloaded. This would require trackers on the lorry, but in most cases the driver's phone would suffice. This would pick up any suspicious deviations from the intended itinerary. Doors could be 'sealed' with special sticky tape which would leave a trace if disturbed. Arrangements would be made for a customs official to be present at the importer's premises at an agreed time to remove the seal and carry out the inspection.

Good outwards

I envisage the payment of EU tariffs on exports to be paid by an EU-based representative of the UK government, funded from the import tariffs. This will allow exports to EU customers to continue unaffected by tariffs (perfectly legal in accordance with Article 2 of the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures). This requires a system of pre-declaration for exports on exactly the same basis as for imports, with liaison with the importer to ensure foreign customs payment requirements are met.

Northern Ireland

I envisage that the whole of Northern Ireland will become a free trade zone. No tariffs will be required on any goods originating in or destined for the province other than those imposed by the EU on imports into the Republic. However a record will have to be kept and audit trail maintained to identify any smuggling operations based in the province.

Thus the same pre-declaration procedures will be required for all movements into and out of the province, applied at ports of embarkation on both sides of the Irish Sea. Exports from GB to the Republic via the Province will require the same tariff payment procedures as for direct exports as above for payment to the EU.