



## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

### Brexit and the Labour Market

#### *Call for Evidence*

The Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Lords, chaired by Lord Hollick, is conducting an inquiry into *Brexit and the Labour Market*.

#### Background to the inquiry

In December 2016 the Office for National Statistics published figures showing net migration for the year to June 2016 was 335,000. The Government has stated that its ambition is to significantly reduce the level of net migration to the UK. The vote to leave the EU presents the UK with an opportunity to restructure immigration policy.

The Prime Minister has expressed concern about the impact of uncontrolled migration on people on low incomes and stated that the UK should ensure that it can control immigration from Europe. Some sectors view this opportunity anxiously and have stated that continued access to migrant labour is crucial for the success of their businesses and the UK economy. The Committee will examine these competing claims.

#### Evidence sought

The central question for the Committee is what is the expected impact of Brexit on the UK labour market? The Committee's inquiry will take as its starting point the assumption that net migration will be reduced. The inquiry will consider EU and non-EU migrants.

As well as the central question above, the Committee would welcome written evidence on any or all of the following issues:

1. What level of net migration is necessary for the UK labour market to function effectively?
  - a. How reliant is the UK labour market on high, medium or low skilled migrant labour? What would be the impact of a reduced ability to source foreign workers on British businesses?
  - b. Which particular sectors or sub-sectors would be affected by controls on EU migration and further controls on non-EU migration?
2. What would be the impact on wages, in different sectors, of controls on EU migration and further controls on non-EU migration? What evidence is there of the impact on wages of the level of immigration (from EU and non-EU countries) to date?
3. Does the Government have adequate data on the number and characteristics of immigrant workers on which future assumptions and policy can be based?
  - a. If there are deficiencies in the data what changes are required to improve it?
  - b. How should the labour market impact of particular restrictions on migration be measured?
4. Is there a case for regional variation in immigration policy?

5. How successful have policies to control the level of migration from non-EU countries been? Are any changes required if these controls are extended to migrants from EU countries?
6. What lessons can the UK draw from the experience of other countries?

The Committee invites interested individuals and organisations to submit evidence to this inquiry. Written evidence does not need to address every question. The questions are not listed in any particular order of importance.

Witnesses are asked to note that the focus of this inquiry is not the rights of EU citizens currently resident in the UK.

The deadline for written evidence is 20 February 2017. The written submissions will guide the Committee's deliberations in oral evidence sessions and inform the Committee's final conclusions and recommendations.

Public hearings will be held in February and March 2017. The Committee aims to report to the House, with recommendations, in early May 2017. The report will receive a response from the Government, and may be debated in the House.

The remit of the Economic Affairs Committee is to consider economic affairs. Information including membership and recent inquiries can be found on this link:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/economic-affairs-committee/>

*17 January 2017*

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at [www.parliament.uk/brexit-and-the-labour-market-written-submission-form](http://www.parliament.uk/brexit-and-the-labour-market-written-submission-form). This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence.

If you have difficulty submitting evidence online, please contact the Committee Clerk by email to [waller@parliament.uk](mailto:waller@parliament.uk) or by telephoning 020 7219 5358.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission larger than six pages should include a one page summary.

Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions which have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence. Once you have received acknowledgment that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at [www.parliament.uk/brexit-and-the-labour-market](http://www.parliament.uk/brexit-and-the-labour-market).