

UK Migration: Understanding the Data

Madeleine Sumption
Director, Migration Observatory



What drove recent migration patterns?

Type of migration	Immigration policy drivers (2022-2023)	Non-immigration policy drivers (2022-2023)
Work – health professionals		Demand in NHS, retention, pay & conditions, Covid-19
Work – care workers	Decision to open care route Low salary threshold	Poor pay & conditions in care sector
Work – private sector	Reduced non-EU skills/salary threshold End of free movement	Labour shortages post-Covid
Students	Post-study work route	Higher education finances Post-Covid bounce (vs. other countries)
Ukrainians & Hong Kong BNOs	Decision to open visa routes	Geopolitics
Asylum		Conflicts (e.g. Afghanistan) Development of small boats route Information & networks
Family		



Policies that may (or may not) affect numbers in 2024-5

- Care worker family restrictions
- Student family restrictions
- Care sponsor CQC registration & monitoring
- Private sector worker salary increases
- Family income threshold increase
- Small boat & asylum measures?



When do numbers matter?

Total numbers more relevant	Total numbers less relevant
Housing	Public finances
Social impacts	Labour market
	Productivity
	GDP per capita & incomes