



Student 'Scams' provide yet another back door into Britain

Further evidence that current procedures are failing to prevent major scams within the immigration system is revealed in a new report out today from think-tank Migrationwatch.

Research by the group into Home Office statistics reveals serious doubts about the number of students being allowed to extend their stay in Britain, raising concerns that it is yet another back door into Britain.

In the case of students from just one country - Jamaica - in the period 2001/03 - 1690 students were admitted but 27,525 more had their stays extended, even though official records show there are only 780 Jamaican students in the country!

Once again it underlines the chaos that exists in the system and makes a mockery of the claim by the Prime Minister recently that immigration is under control, said Sir Andrew Green, Chairman of Migrationwatch. How can they possibly have granted so many extensions over a three year period without anyone realising that there must be some major scams in operation?

The groups analysis is drawn from Home Office immigration statistics published recently (CM 633) which show an increase in student extensions of 48% over the previous year to reach 190,215.

A comparison between the number of students admitted to Britain from each country over the past three years and the number granted extension in that period shows some surprising results. For Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia, Mexico, Russia, Czech Republic and Cyprus extensions were less than 25% of student admissions over the same period. For the USA, by far the largest source of students at 195,000, only 2% sought extensions. (*See table below*).

By contrast, extensions were close to 100% of admissions for countries such as Lithuania, Ukraine, Trinidad, Ghana, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Sri Lanka.

This high percentage may be partially accounted for by the fact that students may re-apply for extensions provided that they have evidence of financial support and a letter offering them a place. Those who arrive as visitors from countries for which visas are required are not permitted to switch to student status. If they do not require visas they may do so.

None of this, however, explains the two most remarkable results, said Sir Andrew.

In the period 2001 2003 4,270 students were admitted from Zimbabwe but, in the same period no less than 25,420 extensions were approved. For Jamaica the figures are even more startling.

Bangladesh	1520	2370	2590	6480	780	1195	2360	4335	67%
India	8260	13300	15400	36960	2080	4390	10055	16525	45%
Pakistan	4860	3870	6730	15460	2405	4105	5700	12210	79%
Iran	810	1000	1190	3000	470	665	990	2125	71%
Saudi	2280	2500	2780	7560	385	535	805	1725	23%
Syria	670	530	545	1745	400	445	520	1365	78%
China	27000	42700	30200	99900	10190	19810	36195	66195	66%
Hong Kong	8030	8140	5740	21910	935	1295	825	3055	14%
Japan	35000	32500	26600	94100	2885	3275	5200	11360	12%
Malaysia	7600	8260	6770	22630	2310	2855	4030	9195	41%
Singapore	2010	2360	1800	6170	190	240	510	940	15%
South Korea	12900	14600	12600	40100	2145	2770	4300	9215	23%
Sri Lanka	1970	1740	1840	5550	1415	2070	2630	6115	110%
Taiwan	6890	8990	5650	21530	1460	2015	2135	5610	26%
Thailand	3470	4100	3900	11470	1565	1850	2380	5795	51%
Australia	1850	1740	2170	5760	355	390	565	1310	23%

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