



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration

“Managing migration post-Brexit: What can we learn from other countries?”

Tuesday 17th April 2018, 15.00-16.30
Committee Room 19, House of Commons

1.	Attendance	<p><i>Panellists:</i> Carl Hampe - Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, USA Alex Paterson – Fragomen, Australia David Crawford – Fragomen, Canada Dirk Nuyts – Fragomen, Switzerland</p> <p>Kate Green MP – Labour (chair)</p> <p><i>Parliamentarians:</i> Paul Blomfield MP - Labour Joanna Cherry QC MP - SNP Baroness Hamwee - Liberal Democrats Afzal Khan MP - Labour Stuart McDonald - SNP Stephen Timms MP - Labour</p> <p><i>Other attendees:</i> Over 40 representatives from civil society, business, law and academia</p>
2.	Purpose of meeting	To discuss how immigration is managed in the US, Canada, Australia and Switzerland, and share lessons for the UK system post-Brexit
3.	Presentations	<p>Each panellist gave a brief overview of their respective country’s immigration system.</p> <p>(See separate written briefing for details on each country)</p>
4.	Q & A	Panellists were asked about enforcement measures in their respective countries. In the US, there had been a greater focus on enforcement under Trump, but criminalisation of migration had been going on a long time. Increased enforcement was publicly popular, and the current administration was responding to that. In Australia, the government was taking a tougher stance on border control, with the introduction of a border force in 2015, and the establishment of the DHA in 2017 - a “super

department” bringing together national security, law enforcement, border control, and immigration and citizenship. Operation Sovereign Borders, which aimed to stop maritime people smuggling by turning back boats and introducing offshore processing, was highlighted as controversial, and together with reports of reports of the 457 work visa, responsible for whipping up populist anti-migrant sentiment.

Panellists were also asked about measures for outbound labour mobility and business travel. In Australia short-term business travel was becoming an increasing focus for trade negotiations, along with intra-company transfers. In Canada, it was noted that some trade agreements don't say what occupations are included, but rather which occupations are not. It was too early to say how the CETA agreement was faring, but Canada was increasingly looking beyond the US in terms of trade.

The panellists were asked to share the biggest challenges their systems face. In the US, it was noted that measures for lower skilled workers and unofficial migrants were not routinely effective, including regularisation programmes. H1B visas were also causing controversies, for example there were large backlogs for certain countries. In Switzerland, problems highlighted included family reunion, work restrictions for non-EU partners of EU nationals, a difficult environment for start-ups, and growing pressure from the Swiss public opinion over refugees and mass immigration. Despite a generally positive attitude towards migration in Canada, there was a danger that politicians could get complacent. Compliance systems were noted as not being strong enough, which had been a factor in the Foreign Workers Program controversy in 2013. Australia is facing challenge as quite radical changes occur with the launch of the new Temporary Skills Shortage visa and containment of pathways to Permanent Residence. This is placing pressure on both policy and operational teams with increasing backlogs. Australia's humanitarian programme has also attracted controversy. The country's off-shore processing approach was mentioned as a particular concern.

Panellists were also asked about how self-employed workers were treated in each country. The US was noted as having very few provisions for such workers, at least under the formal immigration system. Those self-employed people who were granted a visa tended to be well-educated, high net worth individuals. In Switzerland, self-employed EEA nationals were granted a 5-year residence permit, which could be renewed if they can prove their business has been successful and they are not dependent on welfare. It was much more difficult for self-employed non-EEA nationals to get a permit. They must provide proof of previous success outside Switzerland, and provide a detailed business plan. It was noted that the Australian system was not geared towards self-employed workers. This was part of

		the current consultation around modernising the visa system – for example the need to cater for highly skilled gig economy workers - so changes may come in the near future.
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