Letters to the Editor

Immigration hopes

Sir, Clare Foges’s article hits a row of nails on the head (“Leavers’ immigration hopes will be betrayed”, Mar 4). For obvious cultural reasons there is indeed less public concern about EU migration but we must be able to control it. We cannot for ever be at the whim of the youth unemployment rate of southern or eastern Europe. As for non-EU migration, the government is about to adopt policies that will lead to a substantial rise in numbers. We have been here before, in 1998 and 2004, when the immigration pressures on Britain were seriously underestimated and changes to the immigration system led to a rapid increase in numbers. Any such outcome would drain away whatever confidence remains in the Conservative government.

Lord Green of Deddington
Chairman, MigrationwatchUK

Sir, Clare Foges notes that net immigration from the EU has dropped to its lowest level in a decade. She implies that the UK’s approach to family migration from non-European Economic Area countries, including the “minimum income” requirement (which the Supreme Court described in 2017 as “particularly harsh”), has been too lax. Our fellow EU27 citizens rightly feel that, since 2016, Britain has become a less welcoming place for them and their families. The idea of a pecking order of “desirable migrants” may serve only to exacerbate this feeling.

Dr Ruvi Ziegler
Associate professor in international refugee law, University of Reading

Sir, Apart from the lesser financial contribution from non-EU migrants, different cultural attitudes present a challenge to our society. I suggest that all people who wish to settle here should sign a declaration accepting the freedoms inherent in our society, including democracy, justice and equality. If they were found to act against this declaration, they would forfeit their right to remain here.

Gaynor Cobb
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