



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
LONDON

Press Release

For immediate publication

CONTINUING FALL IN OUT-MIGRATION FROM LONDON: LESS HOUSEBUILDING NEEDED IN THE SOUTH-EAST?

Data published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)[1] shows that the net rate at which London's population is migrating to other parts of the UK has continued its sudden and dramatic fall from 116,000 per annum two years ago to less than 84,000 in the year ending September 2005.

The data shows the difference between the number of people moving out of London to destinations elsewhere in the UK, and the number moving in the opposite direction. It shows that more people have been moving into London as well as fewer moving out.

CPRE London[2] welcomes the new figures: much of the pressure for new housing and associated infrastructure in south-eastern England is generated by people leaving London. The figures may mean that London is becoming a better place to live, possibly as a result of more - and better - new housing being built there[3].

Nigel Kersey, Director of CPRE's London Region said:

"These figures confirm that the recent trend is real. I hope we are seeing the results of efforts by the Mayor and Government to improve London's environment and to meet London's housing needs *in London*. If this trend is to continue, then more housing suitable for families with young children - and better design quality - will be crucial."

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The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

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A large proportion of the new housing planned for areas outside London is intended to meet demand arising from outmigration from London. Nigel Kersey continued:

“The picture has now changed dramatically over the past two years and the assumptions underlying housebuilding plans for the East of England and the South East Regions should be revisited as a result.”

- END -

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- [1] “NHSCR Inter-regional migration movements within the UK in the year ending SEPTEMBER 2005” is available on the ONS website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D9352.xls>

This and previous years' data is available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10191&Pos=6&ColRank=2&Rank=272>

The data is based on patients re-registering with NHS doctors in other parts of the United Kingdom. In summary, the data for the year ending September 2005 shows 243,100 people moving from London to the rest of the UK and 159,400 people moving in the opposite direction. Despite this net outmigration to the rest of the UK, London's population continues to rise as a result of international immigration and the excess of births over deaths. Equivalent data from recent previous periods is as follows:

Year ending September 2005:	Net loss from London: 84,000
Year ending June 2005:	Net loss from London: 89,300
Year ending March 2005:	Net loss from London: 97,000
Year ending December 2004:	Net loss from London: 105,100
Year ending September 2004:	Net loss from London: 112,400
Year ending June 2004:	Net loss from London: 116,200
Year ending March 2004:	Net loss from London: 115,000
Year ending June 2003:	Net loss from London: 110,400

- [2] CPRE London is the London Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We promote positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside to ensure change values its natural and built environment. Our Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. We have 59,000 supporters, a branch in every county, nine regional groups, over 200 local groups and a national office in London. CPRE is a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning. Our President is Sir Max Hastings.
- [3] Various examples Independent research in recent years has shown that many people leave London for 'housing-related' reasons.