

I remember David Cameron coming to the constituency before the last election to do a “Cameron Direct” where he said a few words and then spent the next 45 minutes taking questions. He asked me in the ante-room beforehand what questions will come up. My response was “immigration”, to which he responded “what will the second question be” and I replied “immigration”.

I wasn't being funny nor was I playing to some sort of dog whistle politics but merely reflecting that across the constituency immigration, particularly from Eastern Europe, is an issue that concerns many. Sure enough the first, second and third question were all about immigration.

I worked for the then Shadow Home Secretary David Davis when Labour were passing legislation allowing for those from Eastern European countries to enter the UK without restrictions. In opposition we pressed hard for the UK to implement certain restrictions similar to those in France and Germany but the Government ignored us.

Many come to the UK to work hard and improve their lives and that of their children. But there are some who do not. That is why I welcomed new steps set out by the Prime Minister to ensure we have an immigration system that favours people who work hard and want to get on in life. Tough reforms of all the routes of immigration to the UK have already been implemented by the Conservatives and have seen net immigration fall by almost a third since the last general election.

By changing the rules on benefits and NHS treatment we will stop our system from being a ‘soft touch’. Finally we have some common sense reforms that will make a difference. And maybe, just maybe, if Cameron comes again immigration won't be the first, second and third question asked.