

This paper has over the past few weeks covered the story of Fredel Buenavista, the local barman who was to be deported to the Philippines despite having lived with his British step-father and mother since he was four. I was deeply disappointed that despite my plea to the Home Office to consider Fred's case as exceptional that he was earlier this week deported.

I completely support the Government's attempts to control immigration after years of lax controls and delayed decisions, all of which have contributed to extra pressure on our health, education and housing services. But Fred's situation cannot be compared to those who enter the UK illegally on the back of a lorry and then do nothing to contribute to society. Fred entered legally with his family and has studied (at no cost to the taxpayer) and worked for the 13 years he has been here. He has never required help from the public purse and given the resource of his family would never probably do so.

The greatest problem we have in the UK is mass migration from Eastern European countries, allowed without controls and restrictions from the last Labour Government. It is also the hardest to tackle but an issue that I think will form part of our renegotiation of our relationship with the EU and one I am optimistic about given the impact it is having on other countries like France and Germany.

I have the greatest respect for the Home Office minister but I feel the decision on Fred was wrong. I went to see Fred and his family at home before he left the country. It was heart breaking and I feel desperately sad for his family who have been ripped apart but I hope for them and his family that Fred will be allowed back soon.