

Document 1

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 24 February 2004

SUBJECT: POLAND: FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS

SUMMARY

- Poles pleased (as well they might be) by yesterday's announcement by the Home Secretary.

DETAIL

- I yesterday saw the Polish Deputy PM Oleksy to hand over the text of the Home Secretary's statement.

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

- I said that Oleksy should not take this as a self-evidently a good thing for Poland – highly qualified people such as doctors also would be able to work in the UK. Oleksy affably said that if they went to England that would reduce their complaints in Poland.

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

Document 2

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO in London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 9 June 2004

SUBJECT: POLAND & FMOW: INVASION? WHAT INVASION?

SUMMARY

1. Pre-accession scare forecasts of Poles flooding to the UK prove unfounded. Of those that travelled, many of the ill-prepared have already returned. Extensive public diplomacy work by us on FMOW/rights and responsibilities. Polish Government still pleased with stance of UK on FMOW.

DETAIL

2. One month after accession and the tumbleweeds are not yet blowing down the streets of Poland. As the experts had predicted, the country has not moved en masse to the UK. Estimates on numbers have varied greatly from 15,000 to 40,000 and the true figure is probably nearer the former. Polish media attention has shifted over the course of the month from plane and busloads of UK-bound Polish hopefuls to Poles returning from the UK after finding it more difficulty and expensive than they had expected. The press continue to report also on Poles being exploited and defrauded by their own countrymen in the UK.
3. Who went in the first wave? Mainly young people, a lot of them seeking to use or improve their English. Many of them seem to have had exaggerated expectations. Now the novelty value is wearing off, we expect to see numbers of tourists and job-seeking professionals to grow, and the adventurers to tail off.

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

Document 3

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO in London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 17 April 2005

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY

1. Mr Prescott has useful meetings with PM Belka and President Kwasniewski in the margins of the Council of Europe Summit in Warsaw.

DETAIL

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

7. President Kwasniewski and Mr Prescott exchanged positive impressions of the first year of free movement of workers between the UK and Poland. President Kwasniewski said that Poland had not experienced an exodus of eg doctors/dentists/nurses on an unmanageable scale – Polish statistics suggested that only some 100,000 Poles had left Poland to work abroad in the past year.

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

Document 4

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO in London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 20 July 2005

SUBJECT: POLAND AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE DEBATE: ROUND UP

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

7. Earlier this month the Europe Ministry commissioned research on Polish attitudes to the EU. 53% of those polled felt that the countries of the EU had more in common than dividing them. The overriding “common link” was economic and political cooperation with the goal of resolving shared problems and threats. Poles cited a shared cultural tradition last. The issues that most concerned Poles were: the risk of a brain drain; the dominance of larger/stronger Member States; internal EU conflicts; and the growth of bureaucracy. Loss of independence (touted by some opposition parties) barely registered. Most of those polled felt that Poland’s economic development and security were inextricably linked to the success of the EU.

Document 5

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO in London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 24 October 2005

SUBJECT: HAMPTON COURT – WHAT’S ON THE POLES’ MINDS?

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

8. *(Passage omitted: not relevant to the request)* That said, there is a school of thought here that sees the UK as sucking away too many bright young Poles.
(Passage omitted: not relevant to the request)

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

Document 6

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO in London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 17 January 2006

SUBJECT: FAC VISIT TO POLAND 18/19 JAN – SCENESETTER

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

7. *(Passage omitted: not relevant to the request)* The Kaczynskis also are uneasy even about FMOW – they wonder whether the UK is not sneakily taking too many of Poland's best young people.

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

Document 7

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: The relevant part of a telegram from the Embassy in Warsaw to FCO in London

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 27 January 2006

SUBJECT: VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO POLAND, 1-3 FEB 2006

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)

8. One key feature of our bilateral relationship is the success of the UK decision to open up the British labour market to the Poles in 2004. There are now some 300 flights to and from the UK every week. Far more Polish students are studying in the UK. Given the sheer numbers of people moving in both directions there have been impressively few serious problems. President Kaczynski has mixed feelings – he of course welcomes Poles' freedom to travel, but frets over Poland's poor demographic trends and fears the UK is luring away too many bright young Poles

(Passages omitted: not relevant to the request)