# Andrew Neil accuses Sir Keir Starmer of misleading public over net migration fall



Andrew Neil has issued a scathing rebuke of Sir Keir Starmer, accusing him of a blatant attempt to mislead the British public regarding net migration figures. In a recent opinion piece for the Daily Mail, Neil labelled Starmer’s claims about reduced migration as "lying and gaslighting," reaching what he deems to be a "deplorable" level. This criticism comes in the wake of the Home Office's announcement of a notable reduction in net migration figures for the year ending December 2024, from an estimated 860,000 to 431,000. However, Neil asserts that Labour's celebration of this decline is grossly disingenuous.

He points out that the decrease is "largely" due to the stricter visa regulations implemented by the previous Conservative government under James Cleverly. It’s a crucial point, considering Labour's previous vehement opposition to these measures, which then Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper branded as "chaotic" and a "Tory failure." Yet, Starmer's government has attempted to take credit for the situation, tweeting that Labour "have nearly halved net migration in the last year," presenting it as a triumph in reclaiming control over immigration policy.

Neil argues that Labour’s assertions aren't just vague; they constitute a "downright lie." He stresses the urgent need for accountability in political discourse, especially on immigration—a topic that remains one of the most contentious in British society. The latest statistics from the Office for National Statistics reveal that this decline marks the largest annual drop since the early days of the Covid pandemic, highlighting the long-standing volatility in migration figures.

Labour’s motivations may be influenced by the rising prominence of alternative voices on the right, particularly amongst those who have capitalised on the public's anxiety surrounding migration. The urgency with which Labour seeks to shift the narrative is clear, as Cooper herself acknowledged the recent decline in migration figures as "welcome" in light of the dramatic rise during the last parliamentary term. Moreover, Labour's proposed Immigration White Paper seeks to introduce radical reforms to further curtail net migration numbers, but these measures raise the question of whether they genuinely address public concerns or merely serve as a smokescreen.

As the political landscape transforms amidst these heated immigration debates, Neil’s critiques highlight the paramount need for transparency and factual integrity in public discourse. The interplay of policy and public sentiment, especially concerning immigration, produces high stakes for all involved parties. While Labour attempts to alter its image amid shifting migration trends, it remains to be seen whether such strategies will resonate with voters or if the failures of past policies will continue to haunt their narrative.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2059893/andrew-neil-says-keir-starmer-gaslighting> - Please view link - unable to able to access data