

There will be a statement today on the recent G20 meeting in Shanghai, a UQ on Sir Jeremy Heywood's advice letter to Ministers at c.4:15pm and a debate on the regulations that set the date of the referendum and the periods for designation.

**G20 Statement:**

At the G20 concluded that *"the shock of a potential UK exit from the European Union"* was one of a number of downside risks or vulnerabilities in the Global economy. However, the Guardian reported on 28 February 2016 that *"Diplomatic source says UK officials proposed warning in meetings in Shanghai before George Osborne arrived"*. [http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/feb/28/uk-officials-instigated-g20-brexite-warning-diplomatic-source-says-shanghai-george-osborne?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/feb/28/uk-officials-instigated-g20-brexite-warning-diplomatic-source-says-shanghai-george-osborne?CMP=share_btn_tw)

**UQ on EU Referendum Guidance:**

There will be a UQ today at about 4:15 by Bernard Jenkin regarding the Cabinet Secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood's "EU REFERENDUM – GUIDANCE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND SPECIAL ADVISERS" attached and in this link; [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/502580/Jeremy\\_Heywood\\_to\\_Permanent\\_Secretaries\\_-\\_EU\\_Referendum\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/502580/Jeremy_Heywood_to_Permanent_Secretaries_-_EU_Referendum_Guidance.pdf)

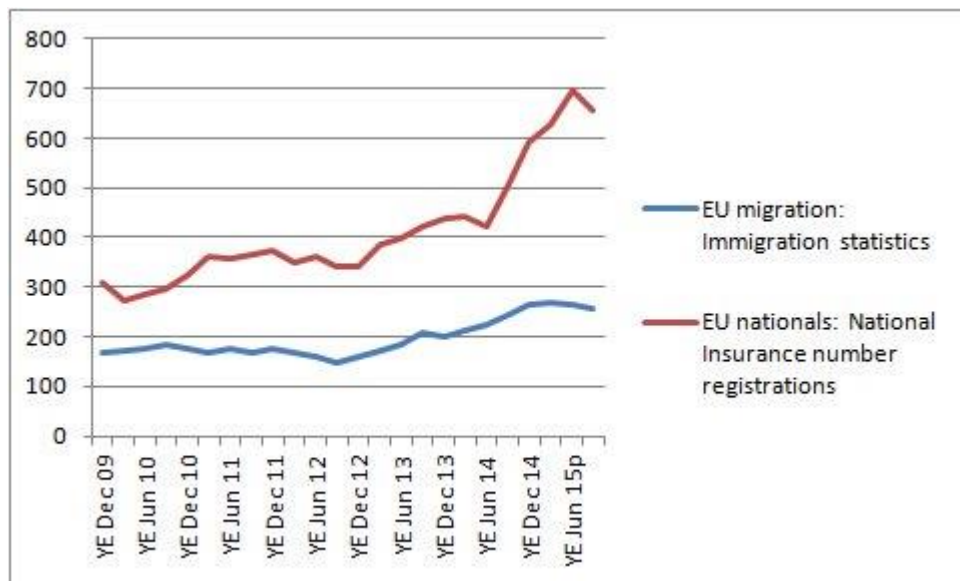
Sir Jeremy Heywood, will also be giving evidence at 16.30pm to the Public Accounts Committee on "Accountability for taxpayers' money".

The letter states

- *"it will not be appropriate or permissible for the Civil Service to support Ministers who oppose the Government's official position by providing briefing or speech material on this matter. This includes access to official departmental papers, excepting papers that Ministers have previously seen on issues relating to the referendum question prior to the suspension of collective agreement. These rules will apply also to their special advisers."*

This advice could cover background information on areas the Government has published information such as:

- legal advice as to the legal enforceability of the "the Decision of the Heads of State or Government, meeting within the European Council, on 18 and 19 February 2016."
- Statistics on the uptake of in-work benefits by newly arrived EU migrants
- Information on active NI numbers that could explain the discrepancy between ONS migration figures and the number of NI numbers issued (see below).
- Information necessary planning and implementation of policies such as that on in-work benefits.



[Source Jonathan Portes NIESR]

The Government has also released a document today on Article 50 TEU;

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/503830/54538\\_EU\\_Series\\_No2\\_Print\\_ready.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/503830/54538_EU_Series_No2_Print_ready.pdf)

#### **The regulations setting the date of the referendum:**

The regulation provides that the referendum period starts on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The period for applying for designation as an official campaign starts on 4<sup>th</sup> March and ends in 28 days which will be the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The text can be found here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2016/9780111143988/contents>