

FROM CCHQ

-*The Sun* newspaper today reports that immigration officials are granting visas in exchange for sex, and that security checks, including checking previous convictions of applicants, are routinely ignored. (*The Sun*, 3/1/05)

-In 2004, leaked Home Office emails showed that a planned raid on a company known to employ illegal immigrants was abandoned because senior officials were under pressure to keep the number of arrests of illegal immigrants down. (*Sunday Times*, 4/4/04)

-In 2004 a whistleblower revealed that Home Office civil servants had been instructed to rubber-stamp visa applications from Eastern Europe without proper checks. (*Sunday Times*, 7/3/04)

-In 2004, it was revealed that an immigration minister had agreed to waive passport checks on 29,000 citizenship applications. (*Daily Mail*, 16/3/04)

-In 2004 a further whistleblower revealed that migrant scams were operating in Romania and Bulgaria and senior Home Office officials were granting visas to people knowing their claims were fraudulent. The immigration minister denied knowledge of the scams but was subsequently forced to resign when it emerged a former Home Office Minister had alerted her to them in March 2003.