Foreign nationals committing crimes in the UK have always excited attention and public outcry. Before World War I, in 1909, this included some outrage that there were 441 aliens in UK prisons. Of these, 306 had been imprisoned for trivial offences against property and received sentences of less than three months. Aliens represented about 2% of the prison population [REF]. In 1924 the total number of convicted aliens in UK prisons was 136 [REF]. Jumping forward to April 1996 the total percentage had reached 7.8%. By 1999 it was 8.1%, 2002, 10% and in 2003, 12% [REF]. These percentages have to be seen in the context of a rising prison population [REF