

Britain? No thanks, it's full of refugees, decides former MP

Australia
Sophie Tedmanson

Australia's most controversial anti-immigration politician has abandoned plans to move to Britain, because it is "overrun with immigrants and refugees".

The former MP Pauline Hanson said in February that she was selling her property in rural Queensland and moving to England, hoping to find a racially pure Utopia in the country for

Hanson, 56, told a Sydney newspaper. The former One Nation leader, who warned that Australia was at risk of being "swamped by Asians" during her maiden parliamentary speech in 1996, claimed that France was also being inundated with foreigners.

"France is becoming filled with Muslims and the French and English are losing their way of life because they are controlled by foreigners in the European Union," she said. "Problems are worse over there than they are in Australia."

Ms Hanson told *The Times* that she had fallen in love with the English countryside after driving 1,600 miles around the country last summer, her third trip to Britain. She visited Cornwall, the Great Dorset Steam Fair, the Lake District, Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace. The staunch monarchist said she was enchanted by London, but added: "I could never live there."

Ms Hanson said that some of the residents she came across "don't even speak the English language". She added: "People in England are not particularly happy with the amount of people that have been allowed into the country." Her concern was over Britain "being dictated to by the EU". The politi-



Pauline Hanson has reconsidered a move to England after a month-long tour

cian caused an international furore after demanding an end to special welfare benefits for indigenous Australians in 1996. She spent several weeks in jail in 2003 for fraudulently spending electoral funds before the judgment was overturned.

In 2007, she ran unsuccessfully for a Senate seat, calling for an end to immigration by Muslims to protect

"Australian culture". Her most recent foray into politics came last year with an unsuccessful campaign for the Queensland state seat of Beaudesert as an independent MP.

Asked yesterday if she had plans to re-enter politics, Ms Hanson said she might run in the next Australian election. She claimed still to receive support from people around the world.

Boy aged 12 is latest assassin in drugs war

Girish Gupta Mexico City

Twelve-year-old El Ponchis has become the notorious new face of Mexico's drug war. Online videos show him slitting a victim's throat, beating another with a stick and posing by corpses and weapons.

Reportedly paid \$3,000 (£1,800) per murder, El Ponchis, which means "The Cloak", is said to torture victims before killing them. According to police, he works with a group of girls aged from 12 to 23, some of whom are his sisters, who dispose of victims' bodies.

The Attorney-General of Morelos, Pedro Luis Benítez, told local radio that young people were easily influenced and gang bosses made it seem like a game: "The [young people] are persuaded to carry out terrible acts. They don't realise what they are doing."

El Ponchis is believed to be a member of the South Pacific Cartel, which formed in April and is fighting La Familia Michoacana for control of southwest Mexico. The group is allied with Los Zetas, special forces deserters who last week forced the evacuation of more than 300 people from the north-eastern city of Ciudad Mier in a turf war with the Gulf Cartel. Its leader, Antonio Ezequiel Cárdenas Guillén, was killed two weeks ago.

More than 30,000 people have died in drug wars in the country since President Calderón took office in 2006.

Online today

For the latest news from Down Under



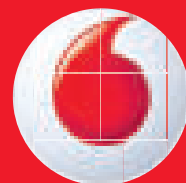
thetimes.co.uk/australia

which her grandfather served in the Royal Navy.

However, after a month-long holiday in England, as well as a few weeks touring the Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania and France, she has decided to stay put.

"I love England but so many people want to leave there because it's overrun with immigrants and refugees," Ms

Pay as you go and Pay monthly



Don't miss this

Vodafone customers can buy tickets to the Isle of Wight Festival, to see Kings of Leon, 48 hours before they go on general sale.

Get tickets this Wednesday
vodafone.co.uk/vip

power to you

ISLE OF WIGHT
FESTIVAL 2011

Terms apply.