

Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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3 March 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

The Government announced in its 2019 Spending Round that there would be a Spending Review in 2020. The outcome of this review will have a significant impact on what departments can deliver over the next few years.

This Committee is appointed under House of Commons' standing orders to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Home Office. To do this effectively, the committee needs to scrutinise funding decisions which affect your department- whether taken as part of, or following, the Spending Review- and the impact which those decisions are likely to have on delivery of future outcomes. For that reason, it is critical that this committee can engage at an early stage to understand, scrutinise and influence those spending decisions and their consequences. To do so effectively, we need good information to understand the issues facing your department and the plans you have for spending public money in the future.

To begin this process, collaborating with the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit and Treasury Committee, we are seeking the following information from you, in relation to your department and associated arms length bodies:

- What your policy priorities are for the Spending Review period, including how these differ from those published in last year's Single Departmental Plan, including those commitments made by the Government during the election;
- Details of spending commitments already made for the Spending Review period (for example on police funding), by year, and by amount;

- How your department has analysed its priorities and work for this spending round, including how it identified areas of cost saving, programmes and projects that can be brought to an end and the total resources dedicated to the Spending Round;
- How you intend to engage those outside the department, such as civil society, in formulating ideas for savings and priorities;
- What policy areas you have identified that require assistance from other departments, and how you have liaised with them;
- Policy commitments (including those in legislation) made which may have a significant spending impact, such as the implementation of a new immigration system or recruitment of additional police officers, over the Spending Review period, with likely costs;
- Details of known unavoidable volume, demand, demographic or cost pressures and their likely costs impacts;
- Details of investment/capital spending priorities and likely costs;
- Plans for efficiencies, including information on how they might be achieved and details of the amounts of savings they are expected to generate. Which areas of policy or provision you regard as being efficient or where further savings can be made; and where further cuts may mean loss of provision or affect policy
- How you intend to measure your performance given any funding settlement;
- How, as part of the Spending Review, you intend to assess the likely impacts of different spending proposals on advancing equality for different protected groups under the Equality Act 2010? Will full equality impact assessments of the outcome of the Spending Review, for each of the different protected groups, be published?

Please supply this information by Tuesday 31 March.

We will be sharing your response with the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit and Treasury Committee to enable Committees to work together to scrutinise overall plans.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Cooper MP