



# Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

8 June 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

The Committee today took oral evidence from David Neal, the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, about his work. Several concerning questions arose during that session which I would like to put to you directly:

**Q1. Why have you not met with the Chief Inspector during his 14-months in post? He stated that on numerous occasions pre-arranged meetings had been cancelled or postponed at short notice. Can you provide an explanation?**

**Q2. Can you provide an update on progress with implementing Wendy Williams's recommendations 10 (review of the remit and role of the ICIBI, to include consideration of giving the ICIBI more powers with regard to publishing its reports) and 9 (introduction of a Migrants Commissioner)<sup>1</sup> ?**

Q3. In her recent progress update, Wendy Williams expressed concern about the Home Office's interpretation of recommendation 10 in the 'Comprehensive Improvement Plan.'<sup>2</sup> **Can you confirm whether the Home Office intend to implement recommendation 10 as described in Wendy Williams original report?**

Q4. The Committee were displeased to learn that, since 2019, the Home Office has not updated, or shared with the ICIBI, the record of work you are undertaking to implement accepted ICIBI recommendations. Furthermore, the Chief Inspector informed us that he does not have confidence that ICIBI recommendations, which have been accepted by the Home Office, would in fact be implemented.<sup>3</sup> This is very concerning and, if widespread, would significantly undermine the ability of the ICIBI to fulfil its statutory role under s.48 of the Borders Act 2007.

- **Why has the Home Office ceased updating and sharing the ICIBI recommendation implementation tracker?**
- **What does it say about Home Office leadership and delivery that the Independent Chief Inspector does not have confidence that accepted ICIBI recommendations will be implemented?**

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<sup>1</sup> p16, Wendy Williams, Windrush Lessons Learned Review Independent review by Wendy Williams, [HC 93](#), 19 March 2020

<sup>2</sup> p101, [Wendy Williams progress update](#), March 2022

<sup>3</sup> 15:08, [Oral Evidence to Home Affairs Select Committee](#). Wednesday 8 June 2022

**Q5. Can you explain why you have failed to publish 10 out of 12 recent ICIBI reports within the agreed 8-week timeframe?** The Committee were particularly concerned to learn that the ICIBI rapid inspection of the small boats process, undertaken in response to stakeholder concern, has still not been published despite having been sent to you on 24 February 2022.

I would appreciate a response by 20 June 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dame Diana Johnson MP**