



Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30th June 2022

Dear Dame Diana,

Thank you for your email letter of 18 May about the Windrush Advisory Group and its membership.

To clarify, two governmental groups were established as part of the department's commitment to listen to and support those affected by the Windrush scandal and to work more collaboratively with external stakeholders. The first, and the one to which you refer, the **Windrush Advisory Group** was discontinued by the Home Secretary in December 2020 following the launch of the second group - the **Windrush Cross-Government Working Group** - in June 2020.

The Windrush Cross-Government Working Group is co-chaired by Bishop Derek Webley and the Home Secretary and, as you correctly say, has members including church leaders, lawyers and community representatives from the affected communities alongside senior officials from across government departments. The members have a balance of skills and experience and provide community insights as well as covering community engagements and specific sector expertise.

Since its launch, the Working Group has met five times – June and October 2020, June and October 2021 and March 2022. The next meeting is planned for around July.

By way of background for you and the Committee, I thought it might be useful to outline the key objectives of the Working Group. They are to:

- help improve the awareness and uptake of Home Office Windrush Schemes, supporting and advising on issues where these arise,
- provide feedback and insights from affected communities, and expertise and experience of developing and delivering practical, evidence-based solutions in addressing challenges,
- engage in an open and honest dialogue on the issues impacting on affected communities, from both a community and government perspective
- provide strategic input to the Home Office's response to Wendy Williams' Lessons Learned Review.

Further information on the Working Group, including minutes of the meetings, can be found at [Windrush Cross-Government Working Group](#).

I can confirm two members of the Working Group have resigned.

- Arike Oke resigned in May 2021 citing her organisation's (Black Cultural Archives) discontent working with the government following the publication of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report in March 2021, which was led by the Cabinet Office.
- Bishop Joe Aldred resigned in December 2021. In his resignation he was clear his decision was in no way a reflection on the Group or its members.

There are seven remaining Working Group members.

Although no formal assessment of the work of the Group has been carried out yet, we will be working with the Windrush Working Group to jointly consider the future workplan for the Group in the coming months, including membership.

I hope the information I have provided is helpful and please do let me know if I can assist any further.

With my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Foster', with a large flourish at the end.

Kevin Foster MP
Minister for Safe and Legal Migration