



# Home Affairs Committee

Select Committee Team, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From the Committee Chair

Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

13 July 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

## **Evidence session of 13 July 2022 cancelled at short notice**

It is extremely disappointing to hear – at twenty minutes to five the day before your scheduled appearance before the Home Affairs Select Committee on the morning of 13 July 2022 – that you will no longer be giving evidence.

We have been given to understand that, despite the Prime Minister's resignation last week, we still have a functioning government in place, as signalled by the appointment of a number of Ministers over the last few days, including in your own department. As such, it is essential that our Committee is able to scrutinise the policy and actions of this government, and, in these uncertain times, even more so.

You are still the Home Secretary and in a statement you released last week, you implied that you did not resign from Government because you felt "the position of Home Secretary demands the holder of office to be entirely focused on the business of government and our national security".<sup>1</sup> We agree that the work of the Home Office and the role of the Home Secretary are indeed vitally important. We would therefore ask why, a week on, you now feel it is acceptable to avoid a key element of the role – facing up to much needed scrutiny of that essential work. The "business of government" absolutely requires scrutiny by Parliament.

The Committee expects you to give evidence next week on Wednesday 20 July, at the last available opportunity before the summer recess.

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<sup>1</sup> [Priti Patel on Twitter: "https://t.co/UUoAwy2ULP" / Twitter.](https://t.co/UUoAwy2ULP)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'J'.

**Dame Diana Johnson MP**