



Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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18 July 2022

Evidence session of 13 July 2022 cancelled at short notice

Dear Home Secretary,

The Committee remains deeply disappointed by your decision not to face scrutiny on Home Office policy before the summer recess. Our next available slot is Wednesday 21 September, please confirm whether you will commit to this date?

In your absence, we include below some of the questions that we would have asked had you done us the courtesy of appearing before the Committee.

Policing

1. The Metropolitan Police were the sixth police force put into special measures. What does this say about the state of policing in England and Wales and when will the Home Office get a grip of this issue?
2. The Home Office's crime outcomes data shows that last year the proportion of crimes prosecuted in England and Wales plummeted to a record low of 6 per cent. The proportion of violent offences, theft, robbery and sexual offences charged by the police have all dropped. Is policing facing a fundamental crisis of purpose?
3. What identifiable, tangible benefits have there been from the Police Uplift programme in terms of reducing crime and improving public safety and when do you expect more?
4. What impact will the lifting of restrictions on police stop and search powers have on crime?
 - What impact will it have on public confidence in the police, particularly among people from minority ethnic backgrounds?

5. What is your strategy to increase the proportion of new recruits from the Black ethnic group after the extra funding from the Police Uplift programme finishes in 2023?
6. Has Action Fraud got any closer to delivering the outcomes that you would like to see since your last appearance in front of the Committee?

Violence against women and girls

7. Is the evaluation of the Support for Migrant Women pilot scheme on schedule for completion?
 - Is the Government committed to ensuring migrant survivors of domestic abuse have equal access to specialist support in the long-term?
8. What steps have you taken to ensure students will be better protected from drink and needle spiking this autumn?

Drugs

9. In the 10-Year Drugs Strategy, the Government has said that it intends to publish a white paper this year which will “consider a series of escalating sanctions” for recreational drug users. When will that White Paper be published?

Windrush Compensation Scheme

10. In April, 63% of Windrush claims in progress were over 6 months old, 28% were over a year old and more than 20 claimants have died before their claim was settled. How can you justify these delays to the Windrush generation and their families?
11. According to your latest Windrush statistics, performance has dipped in April. Why is that?

Asylum and immigration

12. What is the current average processing time for applications to the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme?
13. Nearly 700 Ukrainians households face homelessness after arriving in the UK. What action is the Home Office taking to address relationship and housing breakdown under both schemes?
14. With so much focus on Ukraine, where do the 12,000 Afghan refugees living in hotel accommodation sit on your list of priorities?
15. Looking at the response to the proposed residential centre for asylum seekers at Linton-on-Ouse, are you still confident that this is a viable solution to reducing the number of asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation?
16. How many asylum caseworkers, Border Force employees and Passport Office staff will need to be cut in order for the Home Office to meet the Prime Minister’s target of a 20% reduction in civil service staff?

Channel Crossings

17. What number of people does the Home Office expect to cross the Channel in small boats during 2022?

18. What discussions have you recently had with your French counterparts on how to prevent boats leaving France?

Rwanda

19. What, if any, evidence do you have that the Rwanda policy is acting as a deterrent, particularly given the rising numbers of Channel crossings by small boats?

20. What is your response to criticisms that some legal advice in immigration detention is poor quality and hard to access?

Asylum returns

21. How exactly will your 'league table' of nations put pressure on countries to agree to individual return deals?

22. How much do you expect to write off this year due to cancellations of scheduled flights intended to remove ineligible asylum seekers?

I would appreciate a response by 1 August.

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