



Procedure Committee

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

29 June 2022

Dear Sajid

Thank you for your reply of 15 June to the Committee's letter of 23 May relating to your Department's performance in responding to written parliamentary questions.

The Committee is surprised that, despite stating that it is a high priority for you, you have not accepted an invitation to be accountable for your Department's WPQ performance. The Minister of State for Health, to whom you have chosen to delegate the task of overseeing your Department's PQ recovery, has appeared before us twice in the past two years. While we have appreciated his sincerity and candour, it appears that there is still insufficient political commitment at the top of the Department to bring about or sustain an acceptable level of performance.

As I cautioned in my letter of 8 June 2021, neither comparisons with pre-pandemic levels of questions nor reference to statistically unrepresentative periods will help improve the Department's performance improve to the standard that it has been in the past. The steps taken as part of your PQ recovery plan are helpful but what is needed is political leadership backed with the resources required.

I hope that you will accept the Committee's invitation to be accountable to the House for your Department's performance.

I have copied this letter to Mr Speaker.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee