

Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Kevin Foster MP
Minister for Future Borders and Immigration
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
SW1P 4DF

11 November 2020

Dear Kevin

Thank you for attending the Committee on 4 November to give evidence on the Government's immigration policy.

I am writing to confirm the points on which further information would be helpful to the Committee. Each of these is referenced to the relevant part of the transcript of evidence. In some cases, your officials indicated that further information would be provided in the Commons Chamber later on 4 November; where that was the case it would be helpful if you would provide here either the information requested or the Hansard reference for that subsequent discussion.

We would be grateful for a further response from you on each of the following points:

1. How many (a) individuals and (b) families who were on the ten-year route to settlement have been removed from the UK in each year, including the current year, since 1 April 2016 because they had failed to make payments required to maintain their immigration status? [Q2]
2. How many (a) individuals and (b) families have been given (i) financial help with visa payments or (ii) other support as a result of the pandemic? What has been the nature of other support provided? [Q6-8]
3. Please confirm (a) the number of people who have applied for a fee waiver in each year, including the current year, since 1 April 2016 and (b) the number of people who have been granted a fee waiver in each year in the same period; and (c) please confirm what obligations are placed on an individual in respect of meeting their visa conditions if their application for a fee waiver is rejected. [Q9]
4. Please confirm the number of (i) adults and (ii) children who have been accepted into the UK (a) under the Dublin regulations (b) under other resettlement schemes in each year since 1 April 2016 [Qs 13-20].
5. Please confirm the number of children and young people who were alone outside Europe who have rejoined siblings in the UK under (a) the Dublin regulations or (b) other resettlement routes each year since 1 April 2016 [Q37].

6. Please confirm what is the Home Office assessment of the proportion of young people currently coming to the UK under the Dublin regulations who would not qualify to come to the UK under the system replacing the Dublin regulations on 1 January 2021 [Q41-42].
7. Of the 7.400 family reunion visas issued by the Home Office in the year ending March 2020, how many were issued to lone children? [Q43-45]
8. At Q87 you advised that individuals coming to the UK on the new Hong Kong BN(O) visas would “almost certainly” have to pay international student fees until receiving ILR status. Please clarify whether or not this is the case.
9. Please confirm (i) how many times SIS II was checked at the border in the year ending March 2020 [Q88]; (ii) How many people entered the country in the year ending March 2020, and what proportion of those individuals were checked against the SIS II database [Q90]; (iii) which databases will be available for border officials to check at the border from 1 January 2021 [QQ96-97].
10. Please confirm whether, from 1 January 2021 (i) there will be instantaneous access to Interpol databases at the border in live time; (ii) there will be instantaneous access to any other databases at the border in live time and if so which databases; (iii) Interpol alerts may be uploaded to the databases in live time [Q114-115].
11. Please confirm (i) what assessment the UK Government has made of and (ii) whether it plans to introduce the TDAWN system from 1 January 2021 [Q116]

Separately, the Committee would be grateful for the following information at the appropriate times:

(A) You committed that the equality impact assessment prepared for the EU Settlement Scheme, which the Information Commissioner ordered to be published by 26 August 2020, would be published by 18 November or you would write to the Committee to explain the delay.

(B) You also committed to write to the Committee, following your meeting with We Belong, with further information as to (i) the reason why individuals who entered the country with their families as children must follow a 10-year route to citizenship; (ii) the reasons why the same individuals are treated as international students for the purposes of university education, and must pay international student fees in spite of their long-term residency in the UK; (iii) the rationale behind the current operation of the fee waiver system [Q11]

Please respond to questions 1-11 above by Tuesday 24 November. In line with your earlier commitment we shall expect a response to point (A) by Wednesday 18 November and to point (B) following your meeting with We Belong.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Cooper MP