

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

14 March 2023

Dear Dame Diana,

**Publication of Equality Impact Assessments into the use of Identification
Document Validation Technology (IDVT) in the Right to Work and Rent
Schemes**

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee concerning the publication of the Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) completed for the purpose of introducing Identification Document Validation Technology (IDVT) in the Right to Work and Rent Schemes (the “Schemes”).

The Home Office continues to modernise and digitise the Schemes, working with employers and landlords to simplify checks and processes where possible. Technology is being harnessed, meeting customer needs and supporting the Department’s move towards a secure, digital by default immigration system.

On 06 April 2022, as part of the digital by default journey, the Home Office introduced changes to the Schemes which allowed employers the ability to use Identification Document Validation Technology (IDVT) when conducting digital checks on behalf of British and Irish citizens who hold a valid passport (or Irish passport card). This provides an alternative option for employers who wish to continue to carry out checks remotely.

The use of specialist validation technology to support a system of digital checks is continually under review, whilst ensuring the security and integrity of the system in the long-term. The Department is engaging across Government, and with the sector, to inform future developments and enhancements. One area currently being explored with employers is whether to expand the list of documents that can be used with IDVT beyond valid passports, considering business needs and security requirements.

To support these discussions and to ensure transparency in the Department's approach, please find enclosed for information the two Equality Impact Assessments, completed on 02 November 2021 and 10 February 2022 in relation to the use of digital checks to verify identity as part of the Schemes.

A copy of this letter and the EIAs will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Suella Braverman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP