



Home Affairs Committee

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Matthew Rycroft CBE
Permanent Secretary

Home Office
2 Marsham St,
London,
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28 June 2023

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for sending us the Department's Main Estimate, and corresponding memorandum for 2023-24. The Committee has considered these documents and would like to raise the following concerns with you.

1. The department has not provided full Asylum costs in its Main Estimate for the second year in a row. This lack of transparency prevents the scrutiny of:
 - i) costs associated with the Migration and Economic Development Partnership; and
 - ii) the economic impact of the Illegal Migration Bill, amongst others.

Failure to produce these costings is not consistent with [Treasury's guidelines for producing Estimates](#), which state:

Departments are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the **content of Estimates is complete**, accurate and **consistent with parliamentary** and Treasury **requirements**; and
- Ensuring that **Estimates are consistent with their best forecasts of requirements**.

The Committee finds the Estimate provided by the Home Office is 'incomplete' and not representative of your 'best forecast of requirements'.

Furthermore, the Committee recognises that the Estimate – were it to include all the required Asylum expenditure - is likely to exceed the budgetary limits provided by the 2021 Spending Review Settlement. In these circumstances, in the interests of transparency and to aid Parliament's ability to scrutinise expenditure, Treasury Reserve funding should be made available at the Main Estimate with refinements being included during the Supplementary Estimate.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to Treasury for comment on this aspect.

2. Costs for 'Customer Service and Core Operations' (which includes income from visas and passports), has increased by c£600 million (+19%). Why is this?

Can you include in your explanation the budget for i) visa income, ii) passport income and iii) customer service operation costs?



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Can you revert to separating these items in the accompanying excel tables you provide alongside the memorandum as you had done in previous iterations of the Estimate?

3. Why has the police settlement decreased by £54 million this year?

We would be grateful for your response to these concerns by 13 July.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Johnson".

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson
Chair of the Home Affairs Committee