



Home Affairs Committee

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Sarah Dines MP
Minister for Safeguarding
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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Via email

23 October 2023

Dear Sarah,

We are glad to finally welcome an announcement for the appointment of a new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, despite this being 18 months overdue. The new Commissioner will no doubt be playing catch-up when it comes to scrutinising the raft of new laws and regulations that have been brought in during this time.

We have been deeply disappointed that since we launched our inquiry into Human Trafficking in February, there has been no Anti-Slavery Commissioner to give oral evidence. We have also asked you and the Home Secretary why this public appointment would not be considered for a pre-appointment hearing with the Home Affairs Select Committee, as recommended by the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. You expressed concerns during the committee hearing on 19 July that this would mean the appointment could be vetoed by our Committee. However, any hearing would be in an advisory capacity only. We are therefore writing to you to ask you to reconsider your position and allow the Home Affairs Committee to conduct a pre-appointment hearing with the Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

We look forward to hearing from the new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner at the earliest possible opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Dame Diana Johnson MP