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Home Secretary

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The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair, Procedure Committee
House of Commons
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BY EMAIL ONLY

01 November 2023

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 September 2023 relating to the Department's performance in answering written parliamentary questions (PQs) during the 2022-23 Session to date. We value the Committee's engagement and monitoring of Departments' PQ response timeliness and hope the following provides assurance of our commitment to maintaining performance.

As you note in your letter, the Department's performance has improved between January to March 2023.

Our improved performance is due to a combination of factors, including the streamlining and strengthening of process, where appropriate. We are, of course, endeavouring to maintain this good performance in the new session.

As you'll appreciate; volumes and consequently, clearance times for PQs are highly impacted during times of crisis like that most recently of Ukraine and Afghanistan. We are always conscious of the possibility for similar events taking place in the future but are working on creating processes that would allow for as minimal impact on performance as possible.

The Home Office team are always looking for ways to improve and will continue to focus on assuring timeliness in our responses to parliamentary scrutiny.

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP