

# Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
SW1P 4DF

16 December 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to request your attendance before the Committee with the Permanent Secretary in January.

As you will be aware an initial request was sent by email to your staff on 3 August to arrange a time for your next evidence session and many repeated requests have been made to arrange a time of your choosing before the end of the year. Your office has advised that you have been unable to find a time to meet us.

It has been the practice of successive Home Secretaries over recent years to meet the Committee three times a year on the work of the Department.

At a time when the Home Office is setting implementing substantial policy and operational changes for the end of the transition period, I'm sure you will agree that scrutiny and transparency are particularly important.

The findings of Sir Alex Allan's report have raised concerns about the urgent need for cultural improvement in the Home Office and for greater respect and support on both sides between Ministers and officials. The Wendy Williams review and the EHRC report have also raised serious concerns about the culture and operations of the Home Office. For these reasons we wish to hear from you alongside the Permanent Secretary.

The Home Affairs Select Committee has agreed on the importance of taking evidence from you before the end of January on the significant issues currently facing the Home Office and how you plan to address them - including on the reforms under way within the Home Office itself.

Please can you provide us with a convenient date and time for the meeting in January. I shall also write to the Permanent Secretary with this formal request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette Cooper', written in a cursive style.

**Yvette Cooper MP**