



Home Office

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rt Hon. Yvette Cooper MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

8 January 2021

Dear Committee Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December inviting me and the Permanent Secretary to give evidence to the Committee on the work of the Department.

You will appreciate that as a result of the substantial policy and operational changes you have referenced in your letter and some of the entirely unprecedented matters we have been dealing with over the course of the last year, I have unfortunately not always been able to accommodate the Committee's requested date, however I have endeavored to attend your Committee where possible. In recognition of the extremely important work the Committee does, I have always encouraged and suggested, in addition to my appearances, that Home Office Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and officials provide oral evidence to the Committee where possible. You will be aware that in just the last two months leading up to the end of 2020, three Home Office Ministers and seven senior officials provided oral evidence to the Committee. We have also repeatedly offered private meetings and presentations to the Committee on more technical matters and we will always look to continue facilitating the Committee's scrutiny work.

In response to your most recent invite, I am happy to appear before the Committee accompanied by the Permanent Secretary. It will be important to allow new ways of working to bed in following the United Kingdom's recent deal with the European Union, and recent developments on COVID-19 restrictions and enforcement. As such, for this session to be of most value, I'd like to offer to appear before the Committee in February; I will leave it to our officials to determine the most suitable date and time for the session.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary