



Home Affairs Committee

Select Committee Team, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel +44 (0)20 7219 3340 Email homeaffcom@parliament.uk

Website www.parliament.uk/homeaffairscom

From the Committee Chair

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Home Secretary
Via email

2 February 2024

Dear Home Secretary,

Thank you for appearing before the Home Affairs Committee on Wednesday 31 January 2024. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Permanent Secretary and Director General for Migration and Borders for their contributions made during the session. We hope this is the beginning of a more productive and collaborative relationship between the Committee and the Home Office.

We are writing to you today to follow up on some of the points made during the session as well as outstanding points from previous correspondence:

Asylum withdrawals

- Can you clarify how many of the 17,000 asylum seeker withdrawals from the legacy backlog were withdrawn by the individual? (Q3)
- Of the 35% of the 17,000 that are now back in the system, how many have been reinstated, and how many are applications that were resubmitted? (Q3)
- How many of the 17,000 have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection? (Q4)
- Of the 33,085-cohort arriving since the Illegal Migration Act 2023 received Royal Assent, how many have been subject to reporting mechanisms, which they have breached and how are you trying to establish contact with them? (Q41)

Asylum accommodation

- Can you provide the full, revised Accounting Officer assessment on the value for money of the Bibby Stockholm barge? (Q2)
- Of the hotel rooms the Home Office is currently paying for, how many were empty in December 2023-January 2024, and how does this compare to the same period in 2022-2023? (Q123)

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

- When will you provide the Children's Commissioner with all the data she originally requested in April 2023? (Q123)
- When are you going to respond to the Children's Commissioner's report from November 2023 about unaccompanied asylum-seeking children? (Q123)

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Migration

- Why has the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Migration, Mr David Neal, not had his contract renewed? (Q46)
- We request again: can the Committee attend an inspection with the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Migration? (Q48-50)

Civil Service

- If a civil servant refuses to follow a ministerial direction not to comply with a rule 39 indication, what action will be taken? (Q123)
- What is the retention rate for caseworkers for asylum cases? (Q123)

Rwanda

- In preparation for flights to Rwanda, has the Home Office found an airline that will fly the asylum seekers to the country? (Q123)
- When will the claimants' costs for the Rwanda court cases will be finalised? (Previous correspondence, letter dated [29 January 2024](#))
- Could these be provided to the Committee once they have been finalised? (Previous correspondence, letter dated [29 January 2024](#))

Hate Crime Action Plan

- Can you provide an update on the Hate Crime Action Plan? (Q124)

Draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

- What is the timing for the Draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, (Martyn's law), to be introduced to Parliament? (Previous correspondence, letter dated [7 November 2023](#))
- We were told in November that you were opening the Draft Bill up for further consultation. We are not aware a consultation has taken place. Can you clarify if, and when, a consultation will take place? (Previous correspondence, letter dated [7 November 2023](#))

Responses to reports

Thank you for confirming your response to the Brook House report will be within the six months, as requested by the Chair of the inquiry (Q126). As noted in the evidence session there are some reports that are still to be published and some that do not have a response from the Home Office. Are you able to let us know the status of the following reports and when Government responses will be forthcoming?

Reviews in progress and/or not yet published:

- Inspection of Activism and Impartiality in Policing.
- Independent Review of Disclosure and Fraud Offences.
- Review of the Independent Office for Police Conduct.
- The Review of Investigations After Police Use of Force.
- Independent Review: Political Violence and Disruption.
- Undercover Policing Inquiry.

Reviews published but without a response from the Home Office:

- Challenging Hateful Extremism, published October 2019.
- Operating with Impunity, published 24 February 2021.
- The Circumstances Surrounding the Former Metropolitan Police Commissioner's Resignation, published 24 August 2022.
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, published 20 October 2022.
- Policing Productivity Review published October 2023.

Outstanding Government Responses to Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration reports, Mr David Neal:

- Inspection report on Country of Origin Information – Thematic review of statelessness (26 April 2023)
- An inspection of the Home Office’s Afghan resettlement schemes (9 June 2023)
- A re-inspection of ePassport gates (16 June 2023)
- An inspection of the use of the powers to deprive British nationals of citizenship (24 July 2023)
- An inspection of contingency asylum accommodation for families with children in Northern Ireland (8 August 2023)
- A ‘spot check inspection’ of the Border Force operations at Portsmouth International Port (6 September 2023)
- An inspection of Border Force’s fast parcel operations (28 September 2023)
- An inspection of Border Force practices and procedures in relation to firearms (7 November 2023)
- A reinspection of the use of hotels for housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (7 November 2023)
- An inspection of the Home Office’s illegal working enforcement activity (22 November 2023)
- Annual report of the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration 2022-23

We would usually ask for a response within 10 working days, but we appreciate the substantial number of questions we are asking for information on. We would therefore ask for a response by Wednesday 28 February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Diana Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diana" and the last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Dame Diana Johnson MP