



Procedure Committee

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
London
SW1H 0EU

By email

25 September 2023

Dear Steve,

I am writing to you in relation to your department's performance answering Written Parliamentary Questions. As you know, WPQ performance monitoring forms part of our regular programme of work.

The Committee reviewed WPQ performance for the 2022–23 Session thus far at its meeting on 6 September. We were pleased to note that DHSC performance has improved compared to the previous session:

2021–22	2022–23
Named Day Questions answered on time: 41%	Named Day Questions answered on time: 57%
Ordinary Questions answered on time: 68%	Ordinary Questions answered on time: 73%

This trend has not been continuous over the course of the Session, however.

Table: DHSC WPQ performance in Session 2022–23

Period	Named Day answered on time	Ordinary answered on time
10 May '22 to 21 Jul '22	523/791 (66%)	1215/1653 (74%)
2 Sep '22 to 20 Dec '22	736/1779 (41%)	1607/2546 (63%)
6 Jan '23 to 30 March '23	629/993 (63%)	1456/1783 (82%)

In the latest period for which we have data, DHSC was almost at the cross-Whitehall performance standard of 85% for Ordinary answered on time. This is very positive progress, and we hope it continues. The September to December 2022 period, however, marked a dip in an otherwise improving performance.



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DHSC continues to receive high volumes of WPQs, something that should be expected to continue. We would be grateful if you could set out how the Department intends to build upon the improvements to date; in particular, how it will bring Named Day WPQ performance up to the most recent levels achieved on Ordinary Written Questions.

Our data is taken from the WPQ system; if you believe it is incomplete or inaccurate then please do contact our clerks. I am copying this letter to the office of the Leader of the House and the Principal Clerk of the Table Office.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee