



Procedure Committee

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
London
SW1P 4DF

By email

25 September 2023

Dear Suella,

I am writing to you in relation to your departments' 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.

The Committee has raised the performance of the Home Office in answering WPQs before. In the previous session the Home Office did not meet the cross-Whitehall performance standard of 85% of WPQs answered on time for either Named Day or Ordinary PQs. The Home Office said this was due to a complex situation in Afghanistan and a large number of Ukraine related Questions. The department said it would to "look to streamline clearance of Named Day questions, particularly during a crisis situation".

The 2022–23 Session thus far shows a similar performance level overall. We note, however, that performance has been steadily improving over the course of the Session; the most recent period saw the department exceed the cross-Whitehall performance standard.

2021–22		2022–23	
Named Day Questions answered on time:		Named Day Questions answered on time:	
72%		76%	
Ordinary Questions answered on time: 74%		Ordinary Questions answered on time: 73%	

Table: Home Office WPQ performance in Session 2022–23

Period	Named Day answered on time	Ordinary answered on time
10 May '22 to 21 Jul '22	400/663 (60%)	574/781 (73%)
2 Sep '22 to 20 Dec '22	674/858 (79%)	934/1046 (89%)
6 Jan '23 to 30 March '23	545/610 (89%)	736/802 (92%)



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We would be grateful if you could set out whether this improved performance can be maintained and that robust processes are now in place to answer WPQs on time. 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