



Procedure Committee

Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department of Education
London
SW1P 3BT

By email

25 September 2023

Dear Gillian,

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 note that, so far this session, the department's performance has dropped below the cross-Whitehall performance standard of 85% answered on time. Named Day Questions in particular have seen a relatively poor performance:

2021–22	2022–23
Named Day Questions answered on time: 87%	Named Day Questions answered on time: 71%
Ordinary Questions answered on time: 89%	Ordinary Questions answered on time: 82%

Table: Education WPQ performance in Session 2022–23

Period	Named Day answered on time	Ordinary answered on time
10 May '22 to 21 Jul '22	196/271 (72%)	441/574 (77%)
2 Sep '22 to 20 Dec '22	287/411 (70%)	845/1092 (77%)
6 Jan '23 to 30 March '23	251/345 (73%)	755/829 (91%)

We would be grateful if you could investigate this and explain what has caused this decline in performance. We would also be grateful if you could set out the department's plan to improve performance. Our data is taken from the WPQ system; if you believe it is incomplete or inaccurate then please do contact our clerks.



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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