



Procedure Committee

Rt Hon Victoria Prentis KC MP
Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
London
SW1H 9EA

By email

25 September 2023

Dear Victoria,

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

The Attorney General's Office performed very strongly in the previous session, answering 98% of all WPQs on time.

There has, however, been a steep decline in performance this Session so far. The cross-Whitehall performance standard is 85% of WPQs answered on time.

2021–22	2022–23
Named Day Questions answered on time: 98%	Named Day Questions answered on time: 80%
Ordinary Questions answered on time: 98%	Ordinary Questions answered on time: 66%

Table: Attorney General's Office WPQ performance in Session 2022–23

Period	Named Day answered on time	Ordinary answered on time
10 May '22 to 21 Jul '22	25/31 (81%)	46/66 (70%)
2 Sep '22 to 20 Dec '22	22/27 (81%)	25/35 (71%)
6 Jan '23 to 30 March '23	21/27 (78%)	25/44 (57%)

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 answering times. 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