



Department for Business & Trade

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for Business and Trade
President of the Board of Trade
Minister for Women and Equalities
Department for Business and Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2DY

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair, Procedure Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20 May 2024

Dear Karen,

Written Parliamentary Questions performance for the 2022-23 Session

Thank you for your letter dated 25 September 2023 relating to both The Department for Business and Trade and Government Equalities Office performance in answering Written Parliamentary Questions (WPQs) during the 2022 – 2023 session. I apologise for the delay in receiving a response; unfortunately, your letter was sent to an incorrect address and was only received by me on 8 April 2024. I value the Committee's engagement on this subject and assure the committee it is of great importance to me that my Departments provide both timely and substantive responses.

Department for Business and Trade

The Department's performance in the months after formation were below acceptable standards. This was due to WPQs volume dramatically increasing whilst facing the challenges of a machinery of government change. To combat this, we increased resource to enable us to provide timely responses and are providing upskilling training across the department. I personally receive weekly reports on WPQ performance and monitor it closely with my Ministerial team and Senior Officials to ensure we are consistently delivering at high standards.

I am pleased to say that in the data provided by the Table Office for April – October 2023 our performance had improved on Named Day WPQs by 25%. Data from the Table Office also suggests that performance for November 2023 – January 2024 was around 90% of PQs answered on time.

Women and Equalities

The temporary dip in performance during the period of 6 January 2023 to 30 March 2023 can be partly attributed to a pause on correspondence regarding conversion practices legislation, during which time Ministers were determining the future direction of work on this policy area. As such, five of the ten PQs sent during this period on the topic of conversion practices were answered late.

A second reason for the dip in performance during this period was due to a temporary reduction in capacity and issues with clearance processes. The Equality Hub has since adopted a new system for triaging PQs which has resulted in a noticeable improvement in PQ performance. As reflected in the Equality Hub's most recent statistics, performance is now consistently at or above cross-Whitehall standards. For instance, from 1 September 2023 to date, Equality Hub PQ performance stands at 141/156 (90% of PQs answered on time).

It remains my priority that my departments continue to maintain high levels of performance.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kemi Badenoch'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'Kemi' and 'Badenoch' being capitalized and prominent.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for Business and Trade & President of the Board of Trade and
Minister for Women & Equalities