



HOUSE OF LORDS

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

HLJusticeHomeAffairs@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

1 August 2024

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing on behalf of the House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee, which was reappointed just before the House rose for summer recess, to congratulate you on becoming Home Secretary. We look forward to working with you.

The Committee has been in existence since 2021, with a remit “to consider justice and home affairs, including the domestic criminal justice system, and international cooperation in respect of criminal justice, civil justice, migration and asylum.”

We have conducted several long inquiries and it has investigated different aspects of your Department’s work and that of the Ministry of Justice. This has included work on new technologies in the justice system, the use of live facial recognition technology by the police, family migration, and UK-EU Security Co-operation. Just before the general election, the Committee started a short inquiry on Tackling Shoplifting (including the Pegasus Initiative).

Electronic Borders Management

Another recent inquiry concerned the introduction of the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) by the UK Government, and the expected introduction of two new schemes by the EU, the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the Electronic Travel Authorisation and Information System (ETIAS). In a letter to the then Minister, Tom Pursglove, on 20 May 2024, we described our alarm at the lack of awareness of these changes on the part of UK Citizens who will be impacted by EES and ETIAS, and by the Government’s approach to communicating details of the UK’s ETA internationally.


While we note the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 July on the UK’s response to the implementation of the European Entry/Exit System, this does not address our concerns about public awareness of the schemes and the potential overlap of the introduction of the ETA and the EES.

We hope that the Government will look at our conclusions and recommendations urgently, and we await a response.

Oral Evidence Session

Since 2021, the Committee has had the opportunity to hold standalone evidence sessions with several of your predecessors to discuss the work of the Home Office. We hope to be able to continue having these sessions, and we would like to invite you to appear before the Committee before the end of this year. I will ask the Secretariat to be in touch with your office to agree a date. We envisage that the session would cover issues that have come to the attention of the Committee previously, including those outlined above, alongside others.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Foster", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Lord Foster of Bath.

Chair, House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee