



**Home Affairs
Committee**

Seema Malhotra MP
Minister for Migration and Citizenship
Home Office
Via email

25 February 2025

Changes to the good character requirement guidance

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of the Committee in respect of the updated guidance on the good character requirement for British citizenship published by the Home Office on February 10.

The updated guidance states that any person who applies for citizenship from 10 February onwards who has previously entered the UK illegally or arrived in the UK without a required valid entry clearance or electronic travel authorisation, having made a dangerous journey, will normally be refused citizenship, regardless of when they entered the UK. This is a change from the previous guidance, which stated that it will normally be appropriate to refuse naturalisation where illegal entry took place in the past ten years. This significant change in policy was made with no consultation and minimal communication, and therefore has not been subject to any scrutiny.

The Committee is aware of concerns raised by Refugee Council and other refugee charities, as well as faith and religious leaders, about this change, in particular its potential impact on refugee integration.

I am writing to ask that you provide further information on:

- The reasons for this change in policy;
- The circumstances in which the Home Office would expect a person who entered the UK illegally or who arrived in the UK without a required valid entry clearance or electronic travel authorisation, having made a dangerous journey, to be exceptionally granted British Citizenship under this new policy;
- Whether and how the previous 10-year illegal entry policy was applied to refugees and those granted humanitarian protection;
- Whether the previous 10-year policy applied to those who arrived by small boat channel crossings and co-operated with Border Force officials upon arrival;



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- The number of people refused British citizenship under the previous policy, and of these, the number who had been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection; and
- Any assessment that has been made of the impact of these changes, including the number of people likely to be affected.

It would be helpful to have a response to this letter by 11 March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Bradley".

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Committee