



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Cat Smith MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 April 2025

Dear Cat,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April concerning the FCDO's performance in answering written Parliamentary Questions. I am grateful for your committee's engagement on this.

Since taking office, I have made clear to the Department that providing high quality and timely information to Parliament is of the utmost importance. I regret that the Department's performance has not met the expected standard of timeliness in the first part of the 2024/25 session. This is not least a result of new processes implemented following the Election, and extensive travel by new Ministers in the months following their appointment. I understand, however, that the situation has continued to deteriorate in the first quarter of 2025, with PQ volumes up 27% on the previous quarter and a reorganisation of Ministerial portfolios.

I am determined to see the FCDO's performance improve over the rest of this session. My officials are taking measures to streamline our drafting and clearance processes and ensure timeliness of responses. The Department has introduced additional checks and a monthly feedback session to improve quality of drafts and ensure the streamlining of processes.

I assure you of my continued personal attention to this important matter.

Yours ever,

THE RT HON. DAVID LAMMY MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs