



Rt Hon. Pat McFadden MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
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Cat Smith MP
Chair
Procedure Committee

17 April 2025

Dear Cat,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April regarding the Cabinet Office's performance in responding to Written Parliamentary Questions (PQs) in the period from July to December 2024. Providing high quality and timely responses to Parliamentary Questions (PQs) is a responsibility Ministers in the Cabinet Office take seriously.

As the data in your letter highlights, there was a significant increase in the volume of PQs received by the Cabinet Office between July and December 2024 compared to the preceding six months. This did unfortunately result in a reduction in the proportion that were answered on time. When this was brought to my attention, I instructed the Department to take steps to ensure that performance improved. In the period from January until the Easter recess, performance has improved, with 86.5% of PQs answered on time. We will continue to monitor performance closely and take further steps as appropriate to build upon this improvement.

I hope that my response assures you of the importance my ministerial team attaches to providing timely and high-quality PQ responses to parliamentary colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Pat McFadden MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster