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Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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8 July 2025

By Email Only

Dear Dame Karen,

MAIN ESTIMATES 2025-26

Thank you for your letter of 17 June regarding the Home Offices Main Estimate and accompanying explanatory memorandum for the financial year 2025–26.

You have raised several questions which I will address in turn.

Regarding the memorandum, you have asked for:

1. **A breakdown of expenditure allocated to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls;**

Home Office funding for VAWG is £122.3m for 2025-26. This includes -

- Over £19m awarded to Police and Crime Commissioners to commission domestic abuse and stalking perpetrator interventions.

- £17.5m on victim services, including national helplines and specialist services.

- Over £27.6m to strengthen the policing response, including £13.1m through the new National Centre for VAWG and Public Protection, £2.2m to rollout domestic abuse specialists in 999 control rooms under Raneem's Law, £1.46m for the Angiolini response, and funding to roll out Domestic Abuse Protection Orders.

- £3.1m on prevention and early intervention to help stop VAWG happening in the first place, identify what works to prevent VAWG and improve multi-agency working; and

- £43m other costs including downstream Ministry of Justice costs for CCB (Controlling and Coercive Behaviour) offence and the MAPPS programme.

2. **A detailed account of asylum support expenditure by accommodation type (e.g., hotels, housing, or other), as well as other forms of financial assistance;**

Asylum support has been allocated £3.588bn for 2025-26, this includes:

- £722m for UASC & leaving care, this also includes the incentive funding programme transfers for Local Authorities.

- £132m for Local Authority dispersal grants.

- £240m for other grants and support costs, including ASSC fees and Children's Panel.

- £262m cash support, this is an increase on previous years which represents more Asylum seekers located in accommodation that attracts the full support rate.

- £2,232m for accommodation, which is made up of Initial Accommodation (IA), Dispersal Accommodation (DA) and Contingency Accommodation (CA). Provisional allocations for each accommodation type are as follow:
    - IA- £55m
    - DA- £611m
    - CA – £1,516m. The majority of CA is hotels, however there is a small number of other types of accommodation such as hostels and apartments.

3. **A breakdown of expenditure allocated to the Border Security Command;**

Border Security Command (BSC) has a 2025-26 budget of £175m (£161m RDEL, £14m CDEL), incorporating former baseline funding streams such as the Irregular Migration Returns Fund, Project INVIGOR and the Border Multi-Agency Intelligence Hubs. The BSC also leads for the government, working with France, to deliver on the Sandhurst agreement, which is £184m in FY25/26. Across these funding streams, the BSC has a system leadership role working with the National Crime Agency and wider domestic and international partners to increase effort and alignment toward stopping small boats.

4. **A detailed breakdown of expenditure allocated to neighbourhood policing initiatives, clearly indicating whether the funding originates from internal savings or additional Treasury allocations. The department should also outline the mechanisms in place to monitor this funding, and ensure it is specifically directed towards neighbourhood policing and not absorbed into the broader police funding settlement.**

The Neighbourhood Policing Programme has been allocated £200m for 2025-26 to fund additional policing personnel into neighbourhood teams. £100m was identified at the provisional police settlement from within the Department's 2025-26 funding allocation.

Following consultation with the sector, the Home Secretary carefully reviewed the scale of investment needed and made the decision to prioritise a further £100m to recognise and support the vital role of neighbourhood policing and to accelerate progress in achieving this commitment. The neighbourhood policing funding allocations and high-level growth plans for 2025-26 were published on gov.uk - [Neighbourhood policing grant allocations and projections: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK]. The 2025-26 neighbourhood policing delivery plans for police forces in England and Wales have been confirmed. Each force has been allocated a provisional budget using the Police Funding Formula (PFF). Within this budget, forces proposed their preferred recruitment and redeployment plans, ensuring a balance between local flexibility and central oversight.

In addition to the £200m, £2.8m of funding has been allocated for the College of Policing to fund the delivery and roll-out of the new Neighbourhood Policing Pathway (NPP) training which includes both e-learning and classroom-based training for all neighbourhood officers and PCSOs. An additional £1.1m has been allocated for the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Delivery Team, who are working as part of the Programme to deliver the commitments outlined in the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

We have a robust mechanism to track delivery, facilitate accurate and timely payments, and engage with forces. Therefore, working closely with the NPCC, we have established an approach which includes regular workforce and financial data collections and reporting to ensure that funding effectively contributes to neighbourhood policing aims and is limited to expenditure that is critical for the programme. Funding must be used for personnel in roles that fulfil neighbourhood policing functions (defined by CIPFA Category 1A) and those working towards fulfilling neighbourhood policing roles, and items that directly support them in their roles, and Special Constables. Forces need to set out their proposals for the use of the funding available to them, explaining how the desired resource meets programme criteria. Funding will be paid to forces once they have demonstrated delivery in line with their published proposals.

Regarding the 2025-26 Estimate you have asked for:

1. **Income from visa operations is projected to rise by over 40% between 2024–25 and 2025–26. Of the projected 40% increase in visa income, how much is attributable to increased application volumes versus higher fees?**

The increase between last year's and this year's Estimate is £1.1bn; a result of:

- £0.5bn increase because of fees increase (of which £0.2bn relates to ETA).
- £0.3bn increase because of net volumes changes (primarily relating to ETA applications).
- £0.3bn increase is a difference in baseline (Citizenship income was included in Passports, Citizenship and Civil Registration in 2024-25).

2. Passport application fees increased from April 2025, yet total passport registration income is expected to reduce by 26%. What is the reason for this income fall?

The income fall is a difference in baseline, as mentioned in the answer provided above. The 2024/25 figure for Passport income included Citizenship income, however for 2025/26 Citizenship income is falling against Visas. Citizenship income was c£360m, so the comparator would be 2024-25 £980m versus 2025-26 £1,087m. This increase of £107m is driven primarily by fee changes, with some demand fluctuations.

3. The department has over-programmed Capital DEL by £452 million. Which programmes will have their budget curtailed to ensure the capital expenditure limit is not exceeded? What are the implications of this?

We will be carrying out a Capital DEL prioritisation exercise to resolve overprogramming and expect all programmes to be in scope. This will provide the Department with assurance that forecasts are taut and realistic and ensure that any savings are targeted to minimise impact on our deliverables.

Yours ever

DAME ANTONIA ROMEO DCB