



Justice Committee

Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
By email only

25 November 2025

Dear Shabana,

I'm writing to you with regards to your 17 November announcement on asylum and returns policy which, although a Home Office announcement, has ramifications for systems under the remit of the Ministry of Justice. I would appreciate answers to the following questions:

New appeals body

You announced the creation of a new appeals body that would be staffed by independent adjudicators.

1. Is it your intention that this body will replace the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC)?
2. Can you provide more detail on who the independent adjudicators will be and what level of qualifications will they have?
3. Can you give more detail on how the adjudicators will be "independent" of the Home Office as described in your announcement? Will they be members of the judiciary, as FTTIAC judges are?
4. Where will the staff for the new body be drawn from?
5. Who will be responsible for recruitment and appointment decisions for the new body?
6. How will the new body be funded?
7. What will the cost be of setting up a new appeals body, and would this be more cost effective than investing more resources into the existing bodies?
8. Will the setting up of the new body require legislation (either primary or secondary)?
9. Do you intend to use legislation to limit the scope of cases that can be heard by the new appeals body?
10. Why was it deemed necessary to set up a new appeals body rather than expanding the capacity of the FTTIAC?
11. Your policy paper states that the new body will process cases faster than the FTTIAC – how will this be achieved?



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Legal representation

12. You spoke of “early legal representation” being available to advise claimants. Can you provide more detail on what this will entail?
13. How will this representation be funded and where will these representatives be drawn from?

One claim, one appeal

14. How is the new proposed system of claimants only being able to claim and then appeal once intended to work in practice?
15. Will the new appeals body be a public authority whose decisions are subject to judicial review? If so, which body will hear such claims and how will they differ to appeals to the Upper Tribunal on a point of law? Will curtailing appeal rights increase the number of judicial reviews of decisions?
16. Do plans to accelerate appeals in certain cases and expedite appeals for first time late claims go beyond what is provided for in clauses 46 and 47 of the Border Security and Immigration Bill? If so, what further legislation will be required?

I would appreciate a response by 9 December.

I am copying this letter to Minister Sarah Sackman KC MP in her role as Minister of State for Courts and Legal Services and Dame Karen Bradley, Chair of the Home Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair, Justice Committee