



Home Affairs Committee

Thursday, 14 May 2026

Gareth Davies CB
Permanent Secretary
Home office
By email

Subject: Main Estimates 2026/27

Dear Gareth

Thank you for providing the Department's Main Estimate and accompanying explanatory memorandum for the financial year 2026/27. The Committee acknowledges and appreciates the department's efforts to align with the guidance issued by the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit on the Estimates process.

The Committee would welcome further clarification on the following issues.

1. Visas, Passports, Citizenship and Resettlement income and cost assumptions

The budget documentation indicates that (excluding the Immigration Health Surcharge) the Visas, Passports, Citizenship and Resettlement budget is forecast to generate an additional c.£1 billion for the department. This reflects income increases of £360.7 million (7.8%) and a significant reduction in operational costs of £652.1 million (27.2%). Could you:

- i) confirm these figures; and
- ii) explain the key assumptions and operational changes underpinning both the income growth and cost reductions.

2. Asylum costs

The Explanatory Memorandum states that asylum support costs have reduced by £388.0 million, however, the Committee notes that total Asylum Group resource costs have increased by £171.9 million.



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i) Could you provide a breakdown of the drivers behind the £171.9 million increase in Resource DEL Asylum Group costs?

ii) The Committee welcomes the breakdown of asylum costs provided in section 4.2 of the memorandum ("Additional details required by the Select Committee"). Could you provide the equivalent breakdown for the 2025/26 Supplementary Estimate?

3. Capital funding for asylum accommodation

The Committee notes the ring-fenced £150 million capital allocation for asylum accommodation on former military sites, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Could you explain why MHCLG is contributing to this expenditure.

4. McCloud "Injury to Feelings" claims

Most departments have implemented the necessary McCloud pension changes without incurring "injury to feelings" claims. Why is this issue unique to the Home Office?

5. "Places of Worship" funding

The Committee notes the additional £21.5 million allocated for "places of worship". Could you confirm:

- i) the purpose of this funding;
- ii) the total amount currently budgeted for places of worship security; and
- iii) how this compares with spending in previous financial years.

6. National Crime Agency

The Committee notes that the National Crime Agency's budget has increased in both Resource and Capital DEL in 2026–27.

Could you clarify whether this increase was fully provided for in the 2025 Spending Review settlement, or whether it is being met through reallocation from within the Home Office's existing budget?



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The Committee looks forward to receiving the Department's response and to continued constructive engagement.

We would be grateful for a response by Wednesday 3 June.

Yours sincerely

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