

Home Affairs Committee

Committee Office House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel +44 (0)20 7219 3260 Email homeaffcom@parliament.uk

Website www.parliament.uk/homeaffairscom

From the Committee Chair

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
SW1P 4DF

8 September 2021

Dear Home Secretary,

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Thank you for your letter dated 20 July regarding the further changes that have been made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme. As you are aware, the Committee will take evidence on the work of the Home Office from the Permanent Secretary and other senior officials on Wednesday 22 September.

To assist the Committee's ongoing inquiry into the Windrush Compensation Scheme and to support the oral evidence session on the work of the Home Office, please answer the following questions:

Operation of the Scheme

1. To the end of July, how many people have received support from the Vulnerable Person's Team, and what form of support was provided?
2. To the end of July, how many urgent and exceptional payments have been a) received, b) approved and c) declined?
 - What is the total value of the urgent and exceptional payments that have been made to date?
3. To the end of July, how many offers of compensation have been a) increased, b) decreased and c) upheld following a Tier 1 and Tier 2 review?
4. For each category of claim, what was the total number of full or interim payments made up to (i) 31 March 2021 and (ii) from 1 April to 31 July 2021?
5. To the end of July, how many awards of compensation have been (a) reduced or (b) declined because the claimant (i) failed to take reasonable steps to resolve their lawful status, (ii) otherwise failed to take reasonable steps to mitigate losses or impacts, (iii) took unreasonable steps that have resulted in increased losses, and (iv) wilfully defaulted or because of lack of co-operation?

6. Has the Department's internal target of concluding 90% of the cases it received before the end of 2020 by the end of August 2021 been met? If not, why not?
 - Is the Department on track to meet its internal target of holding only six months of cases awaiting a decision by the end of November? What action is being taken in order to meet this target?
7. In May the NAO reported that, to the end of March 2021, it took on average 154 hours of staff time for a case to reach payment approval. What progress has since been made on reducing this?
 - Has the number of final decisions made each month increased since March 2021?
8. Since March 2021, the number of claims receiving payment has decreased month on month. Why is this the case?

Impact of changes made to the Scheme

9. You wrote to us in February that the Department believed 40-50% of new cases would qualify for the new early payment for impact on life during the initial six-week assessment period. To the end of July, what percentage of claims submitted after the December changes have received an early payment following initial assessment?
10. You also wrote to us that an exercise was being undertaken to compare the numbers of general and actual awards for loss of access to employment before and after the standard of proof was amended in October 2020. What were the results of this exercise?
11. How many representatives of an estate have received assistance with applying for probate through the package of support announced in July 2021?
 - By when do you expect to have contacted all those who have previously applied for compensation on behalf of an estate to inform them of the support available?

Please respond by 20 September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Yvette Cooper MP