



Julia Lopez MP  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Cabinet Office

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP  
Chair, Procedure Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

22 July 2021

Dear Chair,

### **Written Parliamentary Questions**

I am writing to update the Committee on the Cabinet Office's performance in providing timely responses to written parliamentary questions, following my letter of 25 June.

Between 1 May and 20 July 2021, the Cabinet Office responded to 84% of questions in the House of Commons within the set deadline and 96% of questions in the House of Lords within the set deadline. This is an improvement on the 73% of House of Commons questions answered on time between 1 January and 30 April 2021, and the 88% of House of Lords questions answered on time between 1 January and 30 April 2021.

I am aware, however, that further improvement is required to meet consistently the high standards of timeliness that Members require. The Cabinet Office will continue to work through the areas of improvement outlined in my letter of 25 June. These actions include using data to identify where we can further optimise our process for preparing responses to written questions, and reminding everyone involved in this process of the deadlines, responsibilities and expectations over summer recess.

I hope this update provides additional reassurance of our commitment to responding to all forms of scrutiny, including written questions, in good time. I will write to the Committee again before the end of this year to provide an update on progress.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House of Commons and the Leader of the House of Lords.

**With best wishes,**

**Julia Lopez MP**