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Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair, Procedure Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Karen,

Written Parliamentary Questions

I am writing to update the Committee on the Cabinet Office's performance in providing timely responses to written parliamentary questions. This follows previous correspondence from my hon. Friend, the Member for Hornchurch and Upminster, in her former capacity as Parliamentary Secretary in the Cabinet Office.

Between 21 July and 14 December 2021, the Cabinet Office responded to 84% of questions in the House of Commons and 91% of questions in the House of Lords within the set deadlines. This is broadly consistent with the last set of data provided to the Committee, although our performance has shown a distinct improvement over the course of the year and most notably, 96% of questions from members of the House of Commons due in the month of November were responded to within the set deadline.

I recognise that further improvement is still required to meet the consistent high standards of timeliness that Members are right to expect, and the Department will continue to drive forward improvements in 2022.

I note the Committee's ongoing inquiry into written parliamentary questions, and hope this update provides reassurance of the Cabinet Office's commitment to responding to all forms of scrutiny in good time. I will write to the Committee again before the end of this parliamentary session to provide a further update.

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

Yours ever,

**Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
HM PAYMASTER GENERAL**