



LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS  
HOUSE OF LORDS  
LONDON SW1A 0PW

Lord Foster  
Chair of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

24 February 2026

*Dear Don*

Many thanks for your letter and the Committee's ongoing work. I am sorry to read of the challenges you have faced in getting responses to your requests.

I have continued to champion the excellent work of Lords Select Committees to Ministerial Colleagues since I became Leader of the House, and continue to reiterate across Government the importance of Ministerial engagement with evidence sessions, alongside timely, quality, written evidence and responses.

I will mention your concerns to the Home Secretary, and my office has already reiterated this to officials in the Home Office. This includes asking them to facilitate an evidence session as soon as possible in the next session.

I hope this will help going forward.

*with best wishes*  
*Yours*  
*Anne*

Rt Hon Baroness Smith of Basildon