



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

2 May 2018

Dear Colleague

I know you will share my commitment to ensuring that our Government will do right by members of the Windrush generation.

I have told the House, this afternoon, about the arrangements we have already put in place, how those are going, and what we are doing next.

The Government has:

- Set up a dedicated task force, with committed and sympathetic caseworkers – on the other end of the phone – to support people who are entitled to benefits and services in this country, and to prove their status. So far, there have been more than 7,000 calls to the taskforce, of which nearly 3,000 have been potential Windrush cases;
- caseworkers are inviting people to dedicated service centres around the country, and travel costs are reimbursed;
- So far, over 700 appointments have been scheduled and over 100 people have had their cases resolved.

In some cases, people have suffered financial losses, and so we are putting in place a new compensation scheme, that will be overseen independently, and we will consult on the scope.

The Opposition's Humble Address motion tonight would mean diverting focus away from helping those who have been affected, onto an unbounded fishing expedition. And that would of course create significant cost for taxpayers and could take many months, possibly even years to complete.

The Government is taking action now. In the House earlier, the Prime Minister announced an additional package of measures to bring transparency for Members and their constituents. The package contains three measures:

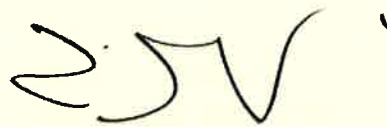
- (i) monthly updates to the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper as Chairman of HASC, to give her and this House a report on progress;
- (ii) this will include the latest position on detention, removals and deportations; and

(iii) independent external oversight and challenge to a lessons learned review already underway.

The review will seek to draw out:

- how members of the Windrush generation came to be entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants;
- why that was not spotted sooner; and
- whether the right corrective measures are now in place.

And I have asked for a report on which I will return to the House before the summer recess.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small mark to the right.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP