

Carol Oxborough  
Clerk to the Home Affairs Committee  
Committee Office  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 4AA

21 March 2018

Dear Carol,

**HOME OFFICE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 2017-18 – RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2018 I have reviewed your questions and have the following response:

1. The 'neutral' transfers referred to reflect transfers between business areas within the Home Office and hence the net effect is neutral.

There is a transfer of budget from RDEL to CDEL within CPFPG which represents a change in programme budget as agreed with HMT.

A reserve claim was agreed by HMT to reflect additional resources required for Brexit, Counter Terrorism and Asylum Support, as stated on page 1 of the Supplementary Estimates but not in relation to the above CPFPG RDEL/CDEL exchange.

2. CPFPG had planned for the exchange in the Spending Review 2015 which was approved by HMT, with all programme funding for CPFPG awarded in RDEL. Once the Policing CDEL requirement emerges there is an agreed switch of funding types at the Supplementary Estimate.
3. In 2017-18 the investment is focused on preparations for the EU Exit Settlement Scheme, ensuring the Department has the right technology to successfully implement and run this scheme. Budgets have been allocated to programmes across the department to support this work.

The apparent reduction in BF CDEL budget is the result of efficient use of CDEL in BF programmes resulting in lower spend than allocated. This underspend has, in turn, been reallocated by our investment board to our Digital Transformation programmes. Whilst on the Estimates these Digital Transformation programmes lie on the "Enablers" line they are in fact delivering platforms to be utilised by BICS programmes. It is therefore not a reduction in spending available to BF, rather a reallocation of unused funds to generate future benefits to BF.

4. The Reserve Claim offset the higher numbers of people on asylum support than anticipated at the time of the Spending Review in part as a result of the 2014/5 Mediterranean migrations.
5. The £42m RDEL Brexit funding is spread across the Department. As with the CDEL, this is largely in relation to the Department preparing for the EU Exit Settlement, including the mobilisation of the programme teams that will deliver the Brexit transformation by 2020. This consists c£30m allocated to UKVI to support the surge in applications for Permanent Residency and to enable UKVI to recruit and provide the infrastructure needed to deliver the EUSS. A further £10m has been invested in IT to develop the EUSS with the balance after income invested in both project management and policy development teams across the Department.

I hope the above answers your questions and my Department will endeavour to provide any further information you require.

**Philip Rutnam**

## Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Clerk

15 March 2018

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Select Committee and No10 Liaison  
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Home Office,  
3rd Floor Peel Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

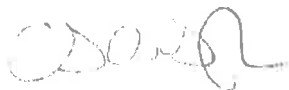
Dear [REDACTED]

The Committee has now considered the Home Office Supplementary Estimate 2017-18 and the accompanying memorandum, and would be grateful for the Home Office's responses on the points set out below.

1. The Estimate sets out a series of "neutral transfers" in the RDEL budget. However, these do not appear to be neutral as they reduce the RDEL budget by £75 million. This is the same amount as the "switch from resource to capital from HMT" set out in the CDEL section (and approximately the same as the switch from RDEL to CDEL for Crime, Policing and Fire).
  - Why has the department presented this as "neutral", and what is the reason for the transfer?
  - Are there any additional funds from HMT?
2. The increase in CDEL for Crime, Policing and Fire looks to have come almost entirely from reduced RDEL. What are the reasons for this switch?
3. The department is claiming an additional £18 million CDEL for EU Exit. This appears to be for "Enablers" as spending by OSCT and UK Border Force is decreasing. What will the department be spending this on?
4. Further details on what the additional £80 million reserve claim for "Asylum Support" will be spent on.
5. A breakdown of the £42 million in RDEL for EU Exit costs.

It would be helpful to receive the responses by 6 April.

Yours sincerely



**Carol Oxborough**  
Clerk of the Committee