Sir Philip Rutnam  
Permanent Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF  

02 September 2019

Dear Sir Philip,

RE: Treasury Minute response – Windrush generation and the Home Office

Thank you for the response to the Committee’s report on Windrush generation and the Home Office. While I note that you have accepted a number of the Committee’s recommendations, I was disappointed that you did not accept the Committee’s recommendation to extend the Department’s historical review beyond the Caribbean to other Commonwealth nationals who may have been wrongfully detained, removed or sanctioned under the compliant environment.

My Committee asked you a series of follow-up questions regarding your work on Windrush during the evidence session for the Committee’s English language tests for overseas students’ inquiry (10 July 2019). I would appreciate some further clarity regarding your responses during that session:

- During the session Shona Dunn told the Committee that your Department intends to seek independent expert advice on whether your Windrush outreach events are reaching the right communities. I understand it is also the Department’s intention for this expert to hold the Department to account. We were puzzled by these statements, given that local authorities are already supporting Windrush cases and represent a readily available network of advice and challenge. We are therefore concerned that the Department is not making best use of the expertise already available to it. I would be grateful if you would send me further information on the Department’s plans, including the rationale for the exercise, what you intend the expert to assess, and timescales for this work.

- We remain concerned that up to 160,000 non-Caribbean Commonwealth nationals deserving of support may be missing out because of your Department’s resistance to extending its historical case review. I understand the future of your historical case review remains ‘under consideration’. Please provide details of what the Department is considering as part of this and confirm when you intend to conclude on the scope and future of the review.

I am aware that you are awaiting the findings of the Windrush Lessons Learned review, led by Wendy Williams, and understand that this should be with the Home Secretary by early September. We will retain an active interest in the findings of this review and the Department’s response and may revisit this topic in due course.
I would be grateful for a response on the above bullet points by 7 October. I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

MEG HILLIER MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS