



House of Commons
Home Affairs Committee

Formal Minutes

2009–10

The Home Affairs Committee

The Home Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Home Office and its associated public bodies.

Current membership

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP (*Labour, Leicester East*) (Chairman)
Tom Brake MP (*Liberal Democrat, Carshalton and Wallington*)
Ms Karen Buck MP (*Labour, Regent's Park and Kensington North*)
Mr James Clappison MP (*Conservative, Hertsmere*)
Mrs Ann Cryer MP (*Labour, Keighley*)
David TC Davies MP (*Conservative, Monmouth*)
Mrs Janet Dean MP (*Labour, Burton*)
Patrick Mercer MP (*Conservative, Newark*)
Margaret Moran MP (*Labour, Luton South*)
Gwyn Prosser MP (*Labour, Dover*)
Bob Russell MP (*Liberal Democrat, Colchester*)
Martin Salter MP (*Labour, Reading West*)
Mr Gary Streeter MP (*Conservative, South West Devon*)
Mr David Winnick MP (*Labour, Walsall North*)

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk

Publication

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/homeaffairscom. A list of Reports of the Committee since Session 2005–06 is at the back of this volume.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Elizabeth Flood (Clerk), Eliot Barrass (Second Clerk), Elisabeth Bates (Committee Specialist), Sarah Petit (Committee Specialist), Darren Hackett (Senior Committee Assistant), Ameet Chudasama (Committee Assistant), Sheryl Dinsdale (Committee Assistant) and Jessica Bridges-Palmer (Select Committee Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Home Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3276; the Committee's email address is homeaffcom@parliament.uk.

HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FORMAL MINUTES

Tuesday 24 November 2009

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Ms Karen Buck	Gwyn Prosser
Mrs Ann Cryer	Bob Russell
David T.C. Davies	Martin Salter
Mrs Janet Dean	Mr Gary Streeter
Patrick Mercer	Mr David Winnick

Friday 13 November

Gwyn Prosser, the Clerk and the Committee Specialist visited Maidstone in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Cocaine Trade

Monday 16 November- Tuesday 17 November

David T. C. Davies and the Committee Specialist visited Brussels to attend a Joint Parliamentary Meeting in a representative capacity, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 27 October

1. The detention of children in the immigration system

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

2. The Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks

Ordered, That the Chairman write to Jonathan Evans, Director-General, MI5, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks.

3. The New Identity Commissioner

Sir Joseph Pilling, Identity Commissioner, gave oral evidence.

4. Police Service Strength

David T. C. Davies declared an interest as a Special Constable in the British Transport Police.

Deputy Commissioner Tim Godwin, Metropolitan Police and Chief Constable Gillian Parker, Bedfordshire Police, gave oral evidence.

Dr Moira Hamlin, Chairman, Avon and Somerset Police Authority, Simon Humberstone, Executive Partner, IBM Global Business Services and Director,

Southwest One, and Chief Constable Colin Port, Avon and Somerset police gave oral evidence.

Rt. Hon. David Hanson MP, Minister of State, Home Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 December at 10:15 am

Tuesday 1 December 2009

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Ms Karen Buck
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Patrick Mercer

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Martin Salter
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

Monday 30 November

The Chairman, David T. C. Davies, Mr Gary Streeter, the Clerk and the Committee Specialist visited Heathrow Airport in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Cocaine Trade

1. Future Inquiries

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into "Preventative Measures to Reduce Crime".

2. The work of UKBA

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

3. Managing Migration: The Points Based System

Ordered, That the Chairman write to Phil Woolas MP, Minister of State, Home Office, in connection with the proposed Review of the operation of immigration under "Tier Four" of the Points Based System of migration.

4. The Cocaine Trade

ACC Mick Matthews, Gloucestershire Police and ACPO Lead, Cocaine, and Mr Chris Pearson, Metropolitan police Intelligence Bureau, gave oral evidence.

Brodie Clark, Head of Border Force, UKBA, and Mark Futcher, Deputy Director, Border Policy, UKBA, gave oral evidence.

Maria Eagle MP, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, and Ian Poree, Director of Commissioning and Operational policy, National Offender Management Scheme, gave oral evidence.

Bill Hughes, Director General, SOCA, and Neil Giles, SOCA, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 December at 10:15 am

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Ms Karen Buck
Mrs Ann Cryer
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Patrick Mercer

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Martin Salter
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

Thursday 3 December

The Chairman, Patrick Mercer, Martin Salter, and the Second Clerk visited the Cabinet Office in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks

1. The Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks

Andy Hayman, Head of Specialist Operations, Metropolitan Police, 2005–2007, gave oral evidence.

Sir Ian Blair, Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 2005-2008, gave oral evidence.

2. The Cocaine Trade

Keith Hellawell, UK Anti-Drugs Coordinator, 1998-2001, gave oral evidence.

Alan Campbell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 December at 10:15 am

Tuesday 15 December 2009

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Mr James Clappison
Mrs Ann Cryer
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Patrick Mercer

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

1. Draft Immigration Bill

Ordered, That the Chairman write to Phil Woolas MP, Minister of State, Home Office, on the matter of the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Immigration Bill.

2. E-Borders

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

3. The Work of the National Policing Improvement Agency

Chief Constable Peter Neyroud, Chief Executive, NPIA, gave oral evidence.

4. The Work of the Home Office

Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State, and Sir David Normington, Permanent Secretary, Home Office, gave oral evidence.

5. The Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks

Resolved, That the Committee now take evidence in private.

Mr Charles Farr OBE, Director-general, Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 January 2010 at 11.00 am

Tuesday 5 January 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mrs Ann Cryer
David T.C. Davies

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Mr David Winnick

1. The National DNA Database

Isabella Sankey, Policy Director, Liberty and Ms Diane Abbot MP, gave oral evidence.

Chris Sims, Chief Constable, West Midlands Police and Gary Pugh, Director of Forensic Services, Metropolitan Police and Chair of the National ACPO DNA Strategy Board, gave oral evidence.

Mr Alan Campbell MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, gave oral evidence,

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 10.15 am

Tuesday 12 January 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mr James Clappison
Mrs Ann Cryer
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Patrick Mercer

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Martin Salter
Mr Gary Streeeter
Mr David Winnick

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Counter-Terrorism Measures at British Airports

1. The Work of the Committee 2008–09

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

2. The Government' Approach to Crime Prevention

Louise Casey, Director-General, Neighbourhood, Crime and Justice Group, Home Office, gave oral evidence.

Fiona Blacke, Chief Executive, and Peta Halls, Development Officer, National Youth Agency, and Adnan Mohammed, User Voice, gave oral evidence.

John Drew, Chief Executive and Bob Ashford, Head of Youth Justice Strategy, Youth Justice Board, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 10.15 am

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mr James Clappison
David T.C. Davies
Patrick Mercer

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Martin Salter
Mr David Winnick

1. Police Service Strength

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

2. The Government's Approach to Crime Prevention

Phil Wheatley, Director General, National Offender Management Service (NOMS), gave oral evidence.

Paul McDowell, Chief Executive, Nacro, gave oral evidence.

Pauline Bryant, Governor, and Clive Barber, Deputy Governor, Reading Young Offender Institutions, gave oral evidence.

3. National DNA Database

Greg Hands MP and Jonathan Leighton, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 January 2010 at 10.00 am

Tuesday 26 January 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Patrick Mercer

Martin Salter
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

Monday 25 January

The Chairman, Patrick Mercer and the Second Clerk, visited Smiths Detection, Watford, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 19 January.

1. The Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

2. Counter-Terrorism Measures at British Airports

Lord West of Spithead, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Security and Counter-Terrorism, and Stephen Smith, Director, Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism gave oral evidence.

Paul Clark MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and Niki Tompkinson, Director, Transec, Department for Transport, gave oral evidence.

Phil Baum, Editor, Aviation Security International and Managing Director, Green Light Ltd, and Colonel Richard Kemp CBE, gave oral evidence.

3. The Work of SOCA

Resolved, that the Committee visit the Serious and Organised Crime Agency on 8 February, in connection with its inquiry into the Work of SOCA.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2 February 2010 at 10.15 am

Tuesday 2 February 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Mr James Clappison
Mrs Janet Dean
Gwyn Prosser

Martin Salter
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

1. **Future Inquiries**

Resolved, That the Committee further inquire into the Gurkhas.

2. **The Government's Approach to Crime Prevention**

Sebastian Conran, Sebastian Conran Associations, and Jack Wraith, Telecommunications United Kingdom Fraud Forum, gave oral evidence.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Rod Jarman, Association of Chief Police Officers, gave oral evidence.

Chris Huhne MP, gave oral evidence

Iain Duncan Smith MP, Graham Allen MP, and Alan Given, Chief Executive, Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 February 2010 at 10.15 am

Wednesday 3 February 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mr James Clappison
Mrs Janet Dean

Bob Russell
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

1. **The National DNA Database**

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, gave oral evidence.

2. **The Government's Approach to Crime Prevention**

Rt. Hon. David Hanson MP, Minister of State, and Stephen Rimmer, Director-General, Crime and Policing Group, Home Office, gave oral evidence.

Chris Grayling MP, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 February 2010 at 10.15 am

Tuesday 9 February 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mr James Clappison
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Mr Gary Streeter
Mr David Winnick

1. The Work of UKBA

Draft Special Report (*The work of the UK Border Agency: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2009-10*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report as amended by the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. The Government's Approach to Crime Prevention

Professor Gloria Laycock, Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, gave oral evidence.

Maria Eagle MP, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, and Rt. Hon. Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State, Department for Children, Schools and Families, gave oral evidence.

Warren Shadbolt, Head, Safer Sutton Partnership, Lord Tope, a Member of the House of Lords, Andy Sellins, Acting Chief Executive, and Adam Hall, Development Manager, Cricket for Change, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 February 2010 at 10.15 am

Tuesday 2 March 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Mr James Clappison
Mrs Ann Cryer
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Mr David Winnick

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Mrs Ann Cryer was called to the Chair for part of the meeting.

1. The Work of the UK Border Agency

Louise Perrett, gave oral evidence.

John Vine, Independent Chief Inspector of the UKBA, gave oral evidence.

Lin Homer, Chief Executive and Brodie Clark, Director, UKBA gave oral evidence.

2. The Work of the British Transport Police

Chief Constable Andy Trotter, British Transport Police, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 4 March 2010 at 10.30 am

Thursday 4 March 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Mrs Ann Cryer
Mrs Janet Dean

Gwyn Prosser

1. **The National DNA Database**

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 10.15 am]

Tuesday 9 March 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mrs Ann Cryer
David T.C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Gwyn Prosser

Martin Salter
Mr Gary Streeter
Bob Russell
Mr David Winnick

1. **Follow-up to the Committee's Inquiry into Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Violence**

Davina James-Hanman, Director Greater London Domestic Violence Project, and Nazir Afzal, Director, Crown Prosecution Service, London West, gave oral evidence.

Alan Campbell MP, Minister of State, Home Office, gave oral evidence.

2. **Follow-up to the Committee's Inquiry into the Ghurkas**

Tim Heaver, Solicitor representing Ghurka Veterans, gave oral evidence.

Kevan Jones MP, Minister for Veterans, and Margaret Gilmour, Assistant Head Land Forces Secretariat, Ministry of Defence, and Jonathan Sedgwick, Deputy Chief Executive, and Lawrence Springall, Programme Manager, Visa Services Directorate, UK Border Agency, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 10.15 am]

Tuesday 16 March 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Tom Brake
Mr James Clappison
Mrs Janet Dean

Gwyn Prosser
Bob Russell
Mr David Winnick

1. Revision of PACE Codes

The Committee gave formal approval to the Government making revisions to the Police and Criminal Evidence Codes by means of a negative statutory instrument.

2. The Work of the Metropolitan Police

Tim Godwin, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, and Kit Malthouse, Chair, Metropolitan Police Authority, gave oral evidence.

3. Counter-Terrorism Measures at British Airports

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

4. The Government's Approach to Crime Prevention

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

5. The Macpherson Report – Ten Years on

Draft Special Report (*The Macpherson Report – Ten Years On: Government Response to the Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fourth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 March 2010 at 10.15 am

Tuesday 23 March 2010

Members present:

Keith Vaz, in the Chair

Mrs Ann Cryer
David T. C. Davies
Mrs Janet Dean
Gwyn Prosser

Martin Salter
Bob Russell
Mr David Winnick

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Mr David Winnick was called to the Chair for part of the meeting.

1. The Work of the Independent Police Complaints Commission

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

2. UK Border Agency – Follow-up on Asylum Cases and E-Borders Programme

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

4. Police Service Strength

Draft Special Report (*Police Service Strength: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2009-10*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

5. The Work of the Information Commissioner's Office

Christopher Graham, Information Commissioner, and Jonathan Bamford, Assistant Information Commissioner, gave oral evidence.

6. The Work of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Professor Les Iversen, Interim Chair, ACMD, gave oral evidence

7. The Work of the Security Industry Authority

Bill Butler, Chief Executive, Security Industry Authority, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chairman.]