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Dear Elizabeth

I am writing following your question during the Statement on Syria: UK Nationals on Monday 18 February, about the number of decisions being made by the Home Secretary where a decision is made to deprive an individual of British citizenship and that decision involves a parent and child, both of whom are British citizens. I am so sorry for the delay in coming back to you.

Firstly, in his speech to Parliament on Monday 11 March, the Home Secretary was clear that the citizenship status of a child born before their parent is deprived of British citizenship, does not change.

Secondly, when the Home Secretary considers whether to deprive an individual or not, the Home Secretary's consideration includes numerous factors, including how any deprivation decision taken in respect of an individual, will impact on the best interest of any children potentially affected by that decision. We do not, however, separate deprivation decisions into those that involve children or not, so I am not able to provide a figure.

Finally, I would stress that where a decision is made to deprive an individual of British citizenship on the basis that it is conducive to the public good, the best interests of any child in the UK who is affected by the decision, are taken into account in accordance with the duty in section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009. Where a child is outside of the UK and so beyond the UK's jurisdiction under section 55, the Home Secretary nevertheless chooses to apply the spirit of that Act and so always takes into account the best interests of the child when making his decision.

Thank you for raising this matter with me and I hope that this provides the clarification you were seeking. I will also place a copy in the House library.

With very best wishes
Diana

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Berridge
House of Lords