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FROM THE LORD BETHELL
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5 November 2019

My Lord

During the statement on the Essex: Major Incident made in the House on Monday 28 October, you asked whether the overall numbers of Border Force officers deployed at British ports had increased or decreased since June 2000, when 54 men and 4 women died in similar circumstances. I am sorry that I was unable to respond to you at the time and I promised to write to you.

It should be noted that Border Force, as it is currently known, has had several structural changes since 2000 and therefore a direct comparison of workforce numbers cannot be provided. The Immigration Service which held responsibility for the work of Border Force as it currently stands, as well as other immigration functions, had approximately 2,600 members of staff in 2000.

Border Force was established in its current form in March 2012 and since that time, the workforce has ranged from approximately 7,800 - 9,000 full-time equivalents. The latest published figure shows there are 9,002 employees as of September 2019.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also send a copy to those Peers who spoke to the statement and place a copy in the House library.

Bethell.

LORD BETHELL

Lord Paddick
House of Lords