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Dear Mr Vaz

I am writing to update the Committee on our progress with deporting foreign criminals and our conclusion of the caseload of historic asylum cases (legacy cases) in the three months since my previous letter of 19 October 2009.

As with my previous letters, the information provided here is subject to revisions for the same reasons I have set out to the Committee before regarding data quality.

INTRODUCTION

The UK Border Agency continues to build on our achievements of the last few years - bringing together customs and immigration functions; integrating our people, skills and processes; and using new systems and technologies to better protect our border and national interests. To secure our border, we have screened over 148 million passenger movements in and out of the UK, resulting in over 5,100 arrests for crimes including murder, rape and assault and significant counter terrorist interventions. In 2009, we searched over one million freight vehicles to check for illegal immigrants, seized illegal drugs worth over £237 million, and stopped over 27,000 dangerous weapons, including firearms, stun guns and knives, reaching the streets. To make it harder for illegal immigrants to enter the UK, 100% of visas have been fingerprint based since December 2007 and we have enrolled over 5 million sets of fingerprints detecting thousands of false identities. We have also issued over 130,000 ID cards to foreign nationals and our Immigration Crime Teams prosecuted almost 3,000 immigration offenders, people traffickers and fraudsters between April 2008 and October 2009. I am convinced that – whilst there is more we can do – we are continuing to move in the right direction.

FOREIGN NATIONAL PRISONERS (FNPs)

Progress with removal of FNPs

1. Our published figures show that between 1 January and 30 September 2009 we removed or deported 3890 foreign national prisoners from the United Kingdom¹. These included 35 individuals found guilty of murder, attempted murder or causing death, over 230 offenders convicted of a sex-related offence and over 1000 drug offenders². Of the drug offenders removed, almost 500 were convicted of the production or supply of drugs, over 200 convicted of possession with intent to supply, and around 300 were convicted of the importation of drugs. Figures for those removed or deported in the period from October to December 2009, along with updated figures for the first three quarters of 2009 and the overall removal figure for 2009, will be published on 25 February 2010 and we are confident they will show year on year progress.
2. In around a quarter of the 3890 cases removed during the first three quarters of 2009 the individual was removed under the automatic deportation provisions within the UK Borders Act 2007.

Early Removal and Facilitated Returns Schemes

3. All foreign nationals subject to removal will be considered by the National Offender Management Service under the Early Removal Scheme (ERS) which allows for early removal up to a maximum of 270 days prior to the halfway point of the sentence. Under ERS, approximately 25% of all foreign national prisoners are deported prior to the end of their sentence and our new rules prevent re-entry for at least ten years, generating a significant prison place saving. The Ministry of Justice estimate that, as a result of this scheme, approximately 400 prison places in any given month are no longer taken by foreign nationals. Not having to accommodate an additional 400 prisoners in any given month represents a saving in the long term in excess of £1.2 million a month (approx £14.4 million over the course of a year) to the National Offender Manager Service of additional expenditure that it would otherwise be required to find.
4. The UK Border Agency actively promotes to non EEA foreign national prisoners the benefits of returning home before the end of their sentence under the Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS). I have previously informed the Committee that the scheme, introduced in October 2006, is administered on behalf of the agency by the International Organisation for Migration which provides a package of reintegration assistance upon an individual's return to their home country.

¹ January – March 1330; April – June 1230; July – September 1330. Source: Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, Third Quarter 2009.

² The figures relating to offence types are based on internal management information and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

5. The current package which commenced on 12 October 2009 includes a £500 cash payment made up of a £46 discharge grant provided to all prisoners, with the remainder provided through a pre paid cash card for use in the individual's home country. Those who volunteer to go home at the end of their sentence could receive a reintegration assistance package of up to £3000 when they are returned, while those who apply to continue their sentence in their home country, or who are removed during their Early Removal Scheme period, could receive a package of up to £5000. The grant and reintegration package is paid in kind (excluding the cash element), and can be used to set up a business, or help with education or to secure housing in the home country. The scheme continues to deliver significant numbers of removals of foreign national prisoners from the UK – it accounted for 25% of total FNP removals in 2007 and 30% in 2008 and the first three quarters of 2009.
6. Every person who leaves the country under FRS results in a potential to provide significant financial and resource savings to the public purse. These schemes are therefore good value for money. Expenditure by the Agency on the scheme from inception in October 2006 to March 2009 was approximately £4.3 million. The estimated total running cost of FRS in 2009/10 is expected to be approximately £6.3 million (inclusive of EU funding of around £2.2 million). When compared with the approximate £14.4 million yearly saving to the Ministry of Justice in the long term, through not having to fund additional bed space, and given that approximately 60% of this saving relates to individuals who leave before the end of their sentence using FRS, there is a net gain accrued by the government in the region of £4.5 million. In addition, there is a saving to the UK Border Agency in terms of caseworking costs, and potential transfer to and detention in an Immigration Removal Centre if deportation does not take place before the end of an individual's sentence. Further, detention beyond sentence under immigration powers presents the risk of a foreign national prisoner being released into the community on bail by the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

FNPs released without consideration for deportation

8. I am providing the Committee with a further update on the progress we are making in deporting the 1,013 foreign prisoners who had been found to have been released without consideration for deportation action. These figures are accurate as at 4 January 2010.

No. of cases concluded Of whom x have been deported or removed	Cases still going through the deportation process	Number of individuals serving a custodial sentence	Not located	Total
782 371 have been deported or removed	125	25	81	1,013

9. We continue to make steady progress with these cases despite their age and complexity and we have located a further four individuals and removed a further 11 cases since the last letter dated 19 October 2009. This included a 'more serious' offender, who had received eight convictions for 15 offences, including robbery, fraud, drugs and firearm offences, who was deported on 9 October 2009. We have also removed a second 'more serious' criminal who had been given a seven year custodial sentence for conspiracy to kidnap, and who had absconded while on parole in 2006. He was traced by one of our dedicated pilot teams last August, and the individual was successfully removed under the FRS scheme on 2 December 2009.

10. I have set out in the tables below a detailed update on these cases, broken down by seriousness of offence:

	Cases concluded	(Of removals/deportations) which	Cases going through deportation process	Nos. still serving custodial sentence	Not located	Total
Most serious	39	(27)	1	2	1	43
More serious	117	(56)	17	6	5	145
Other	618	(288)	107	17	75	817
Duplicates	8					8
Total	782	(371)	125	25	81	1,013

11. The breakdown of the 411 concluded cases that did not result in removal or deportation is as follows:

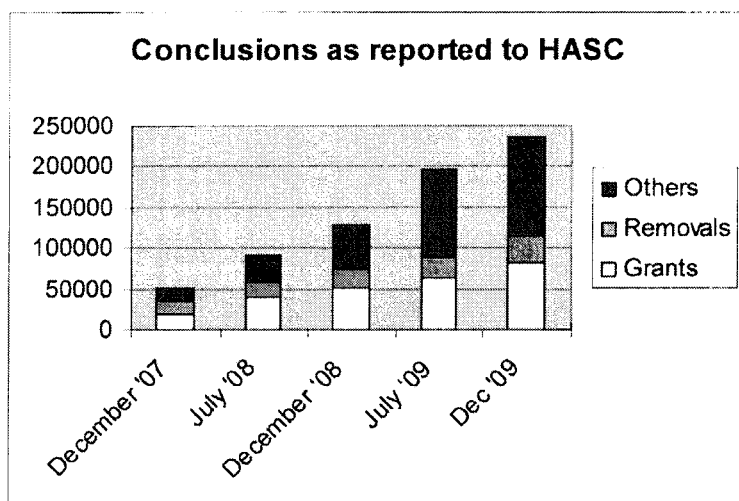
	Most serious	More serious	Other	Duplicates	Total
Appeal allowed	2	23	64		89
British citizen	2	21	57		80
Irish citizen		2	8		10
Exempt	4	2	16		22
Deportation criteria not met	2	8	106		116
Other reasons	2	5	79		86
Duplicates					8
Total	12	61	330	8	411

Processes for referring FNPs to the UK Border Agency

12. The Agency now receives around 850 referrals a month, of which about half meet our criteria for deportation, and deported about 15,000 FNPs over the last three years.
13. In a caseload of this size there remains some challenges in referral and consideration for deportation, particularly, as I have reported to you before, around short-term and remand prisoners (now compounded by a judgment in May 2009 which found that we cannot continue to detain). Our much improved processes with the courts and the three Prison Services and our new notification and recording system mean that we can better grip and identify these cases and take subsequent action.
14. This new system has identified five cases in the more/most serious category when referral did not take place as it should and consideration for deportation was picked up and pursued retrospectively. We are in contact with all of these cases.

RESOLUTION OF OLDER CASES

15. The UK Border Agency is continuing to clear the backlog of older asylum cases with more than 235,000 cases concluded to the end of December 2009³. Of the 235,000 conclusions, 13% were removals, 52% were 'other' conclusions such as erroneous / duplicate records, and 35% were grants. You will see that these proportions have remained fairly consistent throughout the life of the programme.



Performance Update

16. As I mentioned in my letter of 19 October 2009, the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) have streamlined their operating model and taken on a number of additional administrative staff, following the then Home Secretary's policy for us to seek to

³ Please note that the figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

conclude the legacy caseload prior to the stated deadline of summer 2011. Over the last three months we have set up the revised system, and ensured the continuing quality of our casework through a significant amount of training. Whereas in December we concluded on average around 1100 cases a week, we are currently putting around 3000 cases a week into the Case Resolution Directorate and this will continue to rise. There is inevitably a gap between putting these cases into the pipeline and concluding them, as it takes time to make contact with applicants and do the appropriate checks in order to consider each case on its merits. I am confident that this level of activity will enable us to conclude the cohort of cases by summer 2011 or earlier.

17. Over the last three months we have continued to focus on more complex priority cases and have now concluded around 53,000 supported cases. These cases account for approximately 30% of all conclusions in the last three months, demonstrating our continuing commitment to reduce public spending. In the last update I informed you that CRD had concluded 59,500 supported cases. This number included an additional category of removals with a support history prior to March 2007. We have now revised the way we report on supported cases, so that only cases on support in the life of the programme are counted within the category. The correct figure for supported conclusions at the end of September 2009 was therefore 49,000.
18. We continue to work closely with local government to minimise the impact of our work on applicants and communities. This includes joint planning to ensure that we minimise the impact that the conclusion of older asylum cases could have on local services, and the reimbursal package for costs incurred integrating CRD's supported cases following a grant of leave. Local authorities have not yet made full claims for transitional costs for 2009/10; I will provide further information on this issue in my next update.

Section 4 Payment Card

19. The UK Border Agency continues to ensure that those eligible for support receive the assistance they require and those seeking to abuse the system are effectively identified and dealt with.
20. In November 2009, the UK Border Agency launched the Section 4⁴ payment card, to replace the paper voucher system previously used. This new system will enable us to reduce fraud and eliminate the stigmatising effect of vouchers on applicants. The payment card also enables service users to access a wider range of retail outlets from large supermarkets to smaller local stores. This system has been rolled out successfully in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, across London and the south-east, the south-west and the north-west of England. The card will be rolled out to the remaining areas of England by the middle of February.

⁴ Section 4 support is the form of support available to failed asylum seekers who are destitute and are unable to leave the UK voluntarily or otherwise due to circumstances beyond their control.

Outstanding migration cases

21. In my last letter and in my evidence session of 4 November we discussed the group of older, non-asylum cases where we have dealt with the application, but where we have no formal record that the individual has left the country. The nature of these cases, where discrepancies exist between the paper records and our computer systems, mean that each case needs to be individually reviewed to establish its status and whether any further action is required. CRD are using the expertise they have developed in making such progress with the older asylum cohort, to effectively review, archive or action these cases. As I stated in my last letter, other areas of the business are also reviewing their files to ensure any cases of this type are treated consistently. All of these files will be reviewed, archived or actioned by summer 2011.

I am also pleased to attach the Government response to the Committee's report 'The Work of the Border Agency', which was published on 8 December 2009.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lin Homer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Lin' and the last name 'Homer' clearly distinguishable.

Lin Homer
Chief Executive, UK Border Agency

Annex A – Clearing the backlog of older cases – progress to date

Table 1.1: Conclusions⁵ by main applicant and dependants

	<i>Total number concluded</i>	<i>Of which, main applicants</i>	<i>Of which, dependants</i>
Removals ⁶	31,500 (13%)	29,000	2,500
Grants ⁷	83,000 (35%)	47,500	35,500
Others ⁸	121,500 (52%)	105,500*	16,000**
Total	235,500	182,000	54,000

NB. Rounded to nearest 500. Figures may not sum due to rounding

** Includes 6,545 controlled archive⁹ cases older than six months and 8,000 concluded cases in live locations also counted in this category*

***Includes 1,041 controlled archive cases older than six months*

Table 1.2: Conclusions on supported¹⁰ cases

Main	22,450
Dependants	30,499
Total	52,949 ¹¹

Rounded to nearest 50

⁵ Case conclusions: cases are taken to a logical conclusion, including removal, grant of a period of stay within the UK and closure of the cases through updating of Case Information Database (CID) records where actions hadn't previously been recorded.

⁶ Removals: deportations, extraditions, enforced removals and voluntary departures, assisted and unassisted – commissioned by Case Resolution Directorate. Count of people

⁷ Grants: cases granted some form of leave, be it limited or indefinite commissioned by Case Resolution Directorate. Count of Case ID

⁸ Others: In these cases Case Resolution Directorate has determined that an action has occurred that led to a grant of some form of leave, or removal that wasn't recorded on the Case Information Data base. This also includes duplicate cases that have been deleted from Case Information Database. In all circumstances Case Resolution Directorates actions have been to update CID with the appropriate information. Count of Case ID, count of Person ID

⁹ Controlled Archive: the controlled archive is made up of cases where we have made extensive attempts to contact & trace the applicant without success. Controlled archive cases are considered completed for statistical purposes when the case has been in the archive for more than six months.

¹⁰ Cases that were on support between 05/03/07 and 31/12/09.

¹¹ In the last update I informed you that CRD had concluded 59,500 supported cases. This number included an additional category of removals with a support history prior to March 2007. We have now revised the way we report on supported cases, so that only cases on support in the life of the programme are counted within the category. The correct figure for supported conclusions at the end of September 2009 was therefore 49,000.

REMOVALS

Table 2.1: Removals, by nationality (top 10 countries)

Nationality	Total
Turkey	2,850
Afghanistan	2,550
Iraq	2,450
China	1,850
Pakistan	1,750
India	1,600
Kosovo	1,500
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1,450
Nigeria	1,250
Sri Lanka	1,200

Rounded to nearest 50, count of People

CONCLUSIONS FOR ANOTHER REASON

Table 3.1: Conclusions for another reason

Type:	<i>Total number concluded</i>	<i>Of which, main applicants</i>	<i>Of which, dependants</i>
Duplicates	4,500	2,500	2,000
Errors	92,500	83,000	9,500
EU Nationals	9,000	5,500	3,500

NB. Rounded to nearest 500. Figures may not sum due to rounding

LEAVE TO REMAIN IN THE UK

Table 4.1: Grants, by nationality (top 10 countries)

Nationality	Total
Zimbabwe	7,000
Pakistan	6,450
Somalia	5,250
Sri Lanka	4,450
Iraq	4,400
Afghanistan	4,000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4,000
China	3,550
Congo Democratic Republic	3,500
Turkey	3,400

Rounded to nearest 50, count of Case ID

Government response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2009-2010: The Work of the UK Border Agency

The Committee published its report "The Work of the Border Agency" on 8 December 2009 and included a number of recommendations. The UK Border Agency has considered the recommendations and the Government response is provided below.

Comment 1: Whilst welcoming increased resources made available to clear the substantial backlog of asylum applications, we remain most dissatisfied at a target date of the summer of 2011. This in our view is simply too long and we urge that staffing levels are such that all cases going back three years or longer are finally decided on at the latest by September 2010. (Paragraph 10)

Government Response

The Home Secretary has asked us to consider whether it is possible to clear the backlog earlier than summer 2011. In response to this, we have recruited additional temporary staff to perform the administrative functions involved in clearing the backlog and revised our operating model to ensure that it is more streamlined and allows our experienced staff to focus on making decisions on live cases. There has been a transition period as the new model is set up, and staff are fully trained to ensure that the high standards of case-working are maintained. As a result of these actions, a rapid increase in conclusions rates is expected within the coming months. We remain confident that we will conclude the backlog by summer 2011 and will advise the Committee in due course about whether these additional actions mean that we can conclude the backlog earlier.

Comment 2: We are very concerned by the high proportion of 'errors' amongst the cases concluded so far. We understand the difficulty in keeping track of people who may have made multiple applications, sometimes in different names, particularly in the years before the biometric information of applicants was recorded and at times when the numbers of people seeking asylum were at record highs. It is most regrettable, however, that the registration of cases became so chaotic. We trust that the new asylum model of case-handling will prevent such confusion recurring, and we look forward to seeing evidence of this in Lin Homer's next letter to us. (Paragraph 14)

Government Response

We have always been clear that the original 400-450,000 cases would contain duplicate records and data errors. Examples of why we might close a case are because the record is a duplicate file, a data error, or an asylum claim where the individual's country of origin is now a member of the EU. Cases are not closed until all relevant checks have been carried out to establish that no further further action is necessary

The New Asylum Model already has a robust system which prevents multiple cases being created for an applicant.

All asylum applicants are fingerprinted and the fingerprints are automatically cross-referenced against the fingerprints held on the Immigration Asylum Fingerprint System to see if they have been previously fingerprinted in the United Kingdom; and the Eurodac database is also checked to see if the individual has an outstanding application in the European Union. This enables a single identity to be attributed to an individual even if they attempt to claim in multiple identities within a ten year period.

If a fingerprint is verified as a match to fingerprints on one of these databases, the case is immediately referred to the local Criminal Investigation Team (CIT). If, after an initial assessment, the case will not be investigated further by the CIT, the caseowner is notified that a multiple application has been made and is responsible for concluding the case using the correct identity.

The first identity used by a person is accepted as the correct identity unless satisfactory evidence exists in support of another identity, for example, passport, ID card or birth certificate.

Individuals are issued Application Registration Cards (ARC) which contains their photograph and fingerprints and this is used when they report and if they wish to access asylum support. Only one ARC is appropriate and it must reflect the subject's true / accepted identity.

Comment 3: It is vital for the UKBA to undertake general housekeeping exercises of the type that has brought this tranche of immigration cases to light. However, we are astonished that such a large number of files - 40,000 - should have been, in effect, abandoned incomplete. We sincerely hope that this is the last batch of unresolved cases to discover. (Paragraph 19)

Government Response

The majority of these cases will not need any work other than to close the file on the internal systems. We expect around 15% of these files will require further substantive action.

We have vastly improved the way we manage immigration cases. As part of our modernisation process, we are moving away from the use of paper files and assessing file management standards.

We are now rolling out our new e-borders scheme which will count people in and out and is helping us to identify those who left the country. We are also introducing ID cards for foreign nationals to tie people to one identity. We are also targeting rogue employers and illegal working to ensure that those with no right to be here cannot stay here and get jobs or access benefits.

Our strategy also includes stopping immigration offenders from coming to the UK in the first place. We are extending the number of visitors who require visas, and since December 2007, 100% of visas have been fingerprint based. Our Risk and Liaison Overseas Network provides additional checks and supports all high risk posts in making the right visa decisions. Our Immigration Liaison Officers attend flight departures to give on-the-spot advice to check-in staff on the documents presented by passengers, helping to stop passengers with forged documents from even boarding the planes.

Comment 4: The previous Home Secretary described the UKBA as 'not fit for purpose', and the recent discovery of these immigration cases shows that the agency still has a long way to go before it is operating as efficiently and effectively as it needs to do. Despite this, in 2007–08, 29 employees received bonuses totalling £295,000. (Paragraph 20)

Government Response

The framework and criteria for awarding bonuses in the Home Office was outlined in Sir David Normington's letter to the Committee dated 2 November and was also the subject of his letter to the Committee dated 15 January 2010.

In 2007/08, the guidance allowed up to 75% of senior civil servants to receive bonuses. In the Home Office as a whole, 70% of senior civil servants were awarded bonuses, and in the UK Border Agency it was 65%. That is, 29 individuals receiving bonuses at a total cost of £295,000; and 16 individuals received nothing.

The bonuses awarded to senior staff in the UK Border Agency were justified by the performance. 2008 was the year in which the Home Office (including the Agency) was judged as having made remarkable progress in its capability review, becoming, officially, the most improved Department in Whitehall.

The agency has delivered significant results during this time. Fingerprint visas were introduced ahead of time and under-budget. The agency has continued to deport record numbers of foreign criminals. And in 2008 the Agency began to roll out the Points Based System to control those coming to the UK to work and study. The single border force – merging customs and immigration – has been established. All of this has been achieved within a budget which was held flat in cash terms.

Comment 5: We note that in the last few years the immigration service has had to implement eight large immigration acts, including most recently the introduction of the Points Based System, and a further massive Bill is proposed. We consider that the problems faced by UKBA require administrative action rather than further legislation. (Paragraph 21)

Government Response

Administrative actions and legislation should not be seen as alternatives. Both are necessary and need to complement one another. In publishing our proposals for a new Immigration Bill in November we explained the need for simplification of the legal framework:

"Over the years we have had to respond to new patterns of migration and to misuse of our system, in a rapidly changing world. This has meant that it has been necessary to make a succession of specific changes to the law so that we could respond more effectively. Now is the time to build on the necessary changes we have already made, to take stock of what more is needed, and to consolidate and simplify the legal framework.

We have made the immediate legislative changes which were necessary to support the wide-ranging changes of policy, process and organisation we have already put in place. But we have also been clear that a wider reform of the legal framework for immigration is now needed, to build on those new provisions and ensure that the law as a whole is clear, consistent and comprehensible." (Cm 7730)

We have made clear that legislative change cannot be an end in itself. The aim is to reinforce and enable the organisational and administrative reforms which are already well underway. A comprehensive new law will help make those changes stick.

Comment 6: We note the Independent Chief Inspector's and the Minister's comments about the key role played by consulate staff in the granting of visas and the number of UKBA staff who work abroad. We remain most concerned that the Independent Chief Inspector's role remains unclear. We have in previous reports highlighted UKBA's and its predecessor agencies' problems concerning the backlog of asylum applications. We regret that the Chief Inspector started his operation with visa inspections rather than with the areas of most concern to members of Parliament and their constituents. We look forward to receiving the report of his asylum-related inspection in February. (Paragraph 25)

Government Response

The independent Chief Inspector's remit is set out in the UK Borders Act 2007, as extended by the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act of 2009. As an independent appointee the Chief Inspector is responsible for determining where and what he inspects within this statutory framework. The independent Chief Inspector consulted the Home Secretary on his inspection plan for 2009/10 and published it in April 2009 (including an indicative provisional plan for 2010/11). This plan balances both overseas and UK focussed inspections and the independent Chief Inspector has followed that plan. The first Annual report of the work of the independent Chief Inspector,

published on 15 December 2009, contains details of his first set of inspections.

Comment 7: We previously expressed concern about the merger of so many roles into the one post of Independent Chief Inspector and suggested that in particular assuming the visa-related work of the Independent Monitor would be burdensome. We regret that the Government did not heed our advice. (Paragraph 26)

Government Response

The independent Chief Inspector has confirmed to the Home Secretary that he has sufficient resources to fulfil his full set of statutory responsibilities. He is inspecting UK Border Agency work overseas as part of his remit and so the Independent Monitor function has been integrated efficiently into his programme of inspections.

Comment 8: We note that the Independent Monitor was empowered to monitor only rejections of visas and not approvals. It has been reported that there are errors in up to 15% of decisions to reject visas (though some of these are minor administrative mistakes rather than substantive ones); and it is therefore possible that a similar number are being issued incorrectly. We therefore welcome the Independent Chief Inspector's confirmation that he will examine both the process of issuing visas and the appropriateness of the decisions being made. (Paragraph 27)

Government Response

The Independent Monitor identified in her final published report for April to September 2008 that in 84.8% of 906 cases sampled the refusal notices were reasonable and provided correct information.

Of the cases where this wasn't the case, only 1% of cases were viewed as 'wholly unreasonable' - a decision that no reasonably competent and fair Entry Clearance Officer would make. In a further 1% of cases significant maladministration was viewed to have undermined the fairness of the decision. The other errors related to people being given inaccurate information in the refusal notice on appeal rights, referred to the wrong rule or contained administrative errors. There was no suggestion that the decision to refuse was fundamentally wrong.

The independent Chief Inspector's recent inspections of Kuala Lumpur and Chennai have included scrutiny of visas issued as well as visa refusals and he has confirmed that he intends to continue this approach for future overseas inspections. The Kuala Lumpur report was published on 27 January and the Chennai report will be published in the near future.

Comment 9: We welcome the Independent Chief Inspector's proposal to review Tier Four of the Points-Based System, but regret that this review will not be completed until the end of next year. We also welcome the

more focused review of Tier Four being undertaken by the Home Office at the request of the Prime Minister. (Paragraph 28)

Government Response

The review of Tier 4 announced by the Prime Minister on 12 November 2009 was prompted because of concerns by our front line staff overseas and at the border about the sharp rise in student applications experienced in some parts of the world.

A draft report was received by Ministers for the Home Office and Department of Business Innovation and Skills before Christmas, and it is being considered, before the final report is submitted to the Prime Minister. As soon as the way forward is clear, we intend to consult the education sector further on the detail of implementation, including developing an impact assessment.

We recognise the importance of international students both to the UK economy and to the individual institutions where they study. We will continue to work with all parts of the education sector to ensure that the immigration system is delivering all that it needs to by facilitating the entry of genuine international students, but keeping out those who would seek to abuse our controls.