

The Lord Oates
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

16 September 2025

Dear Lord Oates,

**BORDER SECURITY, ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS
COMMITTEE**

I am writing further to the debate in the Lords Committee on 8 September, where I undertook to write (Official Report 8 September Column 1186) about data relating to problems with eVisas.

During the debate you raised concerns around a lack of transparency regarding the effectiveness of digital immigration systems and, in particular, requests for information on how many “Report An Error with Your E-visa” webforms had been submitted to the Home Office.

As you mentioned during the debate, you received a reply to a Parliamentary Question on 30 July, which stated that the information requested in respect of such webform requests was not currently available from published data and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

This response reflected that the information requested is not currently published and providing it in response to the tabled Parliamentary Question would have resulted in disproportionate costs on the part of the Department.

The Home Office has since received several Freedom of Information requests asking for similar or related information about this area. These requests have also been provided responses on the basis of cost exemptions, in line with the relevant thresholds under Freedom of Information legislation.

However, as reflected in a recent response to correspondence from the 3million to which you referred, the Home Office has since taken the decision to publish data on eVisa webform error reporting, despite the cost involved in preparing it for release. This data will be subject to a rigorous quality assurance process as part of an annual publication cycle. Further information, including confirmed publication dates, will be provided once finalised.

This approach reflects the Home Office's commitment to transparency in the area of eVisas, while ensuring that any published data meets the necessary standards of quality and reliability.

I look forward to further debate of the Bill as it continues Committee stage.

I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanson', written in a cursive style.

Lord Hanson of Flint