



The Chairman

Home Affairs Committee

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Sir Michael Scholar KCB
Chair
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
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22nd February 2012

Dear Sir Michael

Home Affairs Committee UKBA information

Thank you for speaking to me yesterday regarding the provision of information from the Home Office to the Select Committee.

For last five years the Home Affairs Select Committee has been investigating the UK Border Agency. This consists of a set of questions given to head of UKBA every four months. In this way the Committee is able to effectively scrutinise work of the agency.

Only last Tuesday, the Home Secretary pointed out that the Committee have argued consistently that UKBA has been a troubled organisation since it was founded in 2008.

In our conversation I told you that our request for factual information on the number of unannounced inspections on Tier 4 College could not be provided because you had said to the Home Office that management information should not published unless it is quality checked. I would be grateful if you could confirm that this is the case.

The Home Affairs Select Committee has a long standing commitment to scrutiny, this was echoed by the Prime Minister when he said he wanted to set new standard for transparency across Government and its Agencies.

We are concerned that this refusal of information is an attempt to prevent the Committee from getting proper information to effectively scrutinise an agency of the Home Office and may be contempt of Parliament.

*With every good wish
Yours
Keith*

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
Chairman

*I attached the Questions of fact we have asked
down.*

The questions asked by the Committee were:

- What is the total number of checks carried out on Tier 4 sponsors in the past 3 months?
- What is the total number of inspections carried out on Tier 4 colleges in the past 3 months?
- What is the total number of Tier 4 sponsors found to be breaking the terms of their licence and how many had their licences revoked as a result?
- What is the total number of Tier 4 colleges found to be bogus and how many have been closed as a result?
- What is the total number of (a) unannounced (b) announced inspections carried out on Tier 4 colleges, broken down by month, within the last year?
- What is the total number of students affected by the closure of Tier 4 colleges in the past year?
- Does UKBA have in place a mechanism whereby proceeds gained by bogus Tier 4 colleges are reclaimed?
- How do you ensure individuals have completed the minimum required hours for English language courses before certifying their accreditation?
- Has UKBA considered publicising Tier 4 colleges it fears may be suspicious?