



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
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12 May 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Passport Delays

In recent weeks I have received an enormous increase in the volume of delayed passport application cases from rightly distressed constituents.

Unfortunately from my experience and that of my colleagues, this is far from an anomaly, rather part of a worrying trend.

I have heard first hand how these delays have resulted in constituents missing weddings, funerals and holidays. This is due directly to the failure of your department to properly prepare for the influx in demand following the end of travel restrictions.

The Home Office has consistently blamed their lack of responsiveness and long wait times on a number of external events such as COVID-19 and the current war in Ukraine.

While I absolutely sympathise with the impact these crises have had on work loads across Government, it has become evident that the Home Office specifically has failed to properly mitigate the increased demand.

The current guidelines that only allow MPs to contact the Home Office regarding constituent passport cases 10 weeks after the passport was applied for and 2 weeks before the proposed travel date are far too restrictive and I would ask you to reconsider them so that our constituents can get answers within a reasonable time.

Furthermore many constituents have contacted me after applying for a passport in March when the advertised wait time was 5 weeks. Now these goal posts have been moved due to no fault of their own and will be left unable to travel.

The Government need to offer clarity on this issue to allow for people to plan for future holidays with confidence and to ensure that people aren't left unable to travel despite following Government guidelines.

I hope you will consider both of these vitally important matters and take swift action to improve the service provided by the Home Office, especially in times of crises or unprecedented circumstances.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Haigh".

Louise Haigh MP