[Date]

Dear Mr Smith

I write to you today to express my grave concerns about the on-going consultation about the New Immigration Plan, and the proposed changes to the asylum system.

The consultation process is, in itself, deeply flawed and does not seem to follow [government’s own guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance) on how consultations should be undertaken. **This raises several questions which I hope you can answer. Specifically:**

* Government guidelines for consultations say they should last for 12 weeks. These six weeks also include Easter holidays, a May bank holiday, and an election period during which those involved in local, mayoral and devolved nation elections are restricted in what they can say publicly. *Why is this one only being run for 6 weeks?*
* Government guidelines for consultations state: “Allow appropriate time between closing the consultation and implementing policy or legislation.” *How will this be possible when the government is proposing to announce their plans in the Queen’s Speech, only four days after the closing date of the consultation?*
* According to government guidelines “Consultation exercises should not generally be launched during local or national election periods.” *Why is this consultation taking place during a period of local elections in England and elections to the Scottish parliament and the Welsh Assembly?*
* The document is only in English and Welsh. *Why is the document not available in other languages spoken by the communities most affected?*

Sadly, it seems that the Government has already forgotten the shameful legacy of Windrush. On 1 April 2021, the Home Office [signed a legal agreement](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/home-office-signs-legal-agreement-improve-practices-following-windrush) requiring the department to properly consider the impacts of its policies on the groups of people they affect. This consultation indicates that the government has no intention of complying with this agreement.

Beyond the failings of the consultation process itself, the ‘New Plan for Immigration’ lays out vague, unworkable, cruel and potentially unlawful plans which seek to further punish and harm people who have fled war and persecution. The plan outlines a two-tier system which determines whether a person has a right to safety and sanctuary solely based on the circumstances of their arrival – not on their actual need of protection. This clearly contravenes the letter and spirit of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, to which the UK is a signatory, and which celebrates its 70th anniversary shortly. Moreover, the proposed offshore processing of asylum seekers threatens to undermine human rights norms of freedom from detention.

**As your constituent, I must express to you my strongest objection to this plan and the disingenuous consultation – neither of which reflect the long British tradition of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers.** From the Huguenot arrivals in the 17th century, to the Kindertransport during WWII to the people supported today by the nearly 120 City of Sanctuary groups (3 of which are active in in your constituency alone), the UK is a generous nation committed to offering safety to those who flee violence and persecution. This consultation and new immigration plan are an insult to that on-going commitment to welcome.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address]