



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Thursday 25th February 2016

Dear Theresa

RE: Delays at the Disclosure and Barring Service

I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have had to wait many months for their applications to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to be completed.

These include a doctor who had to use her personal savings to pay for essential bills as she couldn't work until the check was complete and eventually had to sign on and claim for Jobseeker's Allowance to support herself while she was waiting. It is not right that people who have done nothing wrong are being put under such financial hardship when trying to find work.

Earlier this month, I submitted a written parliamentary question asking how many applications to the DBS from people living in Camberwell and Peckham have taken more than 60 days to process. Karen Bradley MP answered that between February 2015 and the end of January 2016, 2,371 applications from Camberwell and Peckham have taken over 60 days to be completed.

Please can you let me know what you will be doing to ensure that this delay does not continue? What actions will you be taking to offer support to the DBS and to the police force to help them overcome these delays?

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harriet Harman".

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP

cc. Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP