

Letter from Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Minister for Immigration, to the Committee Chair, 21 July 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence at the Home Affairs Select Committee session on Immigration: The Situation in Calais, on Tuesday 14th July. I am writing, as promised, to provide information on four issues raised by the Committee.

Firstly, you asked for a breakdown of the £12m spend at the juxtaposed controls, including clarification on whether the intervention funding, announced after the Home Secretary's meeting with Mr Cazeneuve on 2 July, is in addition to that £12m.

The breakdown of the £12m/€15m Joint Fund spending is at Annex A. The new secure lorry zone is part funded by the Joint Fund with an additional €2m of new funding. The new security infrastructure for the Channel Tunnel site announced on 2 July is also additional funding.

Secondly, you mentioned that £57m is due to be invested in developing the port of Calais. The port redevelopment project 'Calais 2015', is led by the Opal Coast Chamber of Commerce (CCICO), who operate the port, and the Conseil Regional of Nord Pas-de-Calais. The project will increase the size and capacity of the port. The UK is not funding this project. The total cost of the port redevelopment is around €650m and is being financed by a contribution from the European Union, the French state, the Conseil Regional of Nord Pas-de-Calais and private money. We have been consulted on plans for redevelopment, and Border Force has been making sure UK border security considerations are fully integrated into any new plans.

Thirdly, Stuart McDonald MP asked about the nationality mix in Calais. Our French colleagues have confirmed that the number of migrants in the Calais area is c. 3000, with the top 5 nationalities being: Syrian; Eritrean; Sudanese; Iranian; and Iraqi, but they are unable to provide figures to accompany these categories at this time.

Finally, you remarked that the Macedonia Teleperformance contract had been suspended. I am not aware of any issues with the Macedonia Teleperformance contract, but there was an issue with the Montenegrin contract which has been resolved. The Visa Application Centre (VAC) in Podgorica, Montenegro, was closed down by the Montenegrin authorities on 15 May 2015 because a change in Montenegrin law in April 2015 required our suppliers, Teleperformance, to have a licence to operate in Montenegro. Teleperformance obtained the requisite licence and the VAC reopened on 18 June 2015.

During the closure, UK Visas and Immigration put contingency solutions in place for visa customers in Montenegro, designating the VACs in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania as application points for Montenegrins wishing to apply for UK visas whilst the VAC in Podgorica was closed. We made customers and potential customers aware of these contingency arrangements via the British Embassy website in Podgorica, the Teleperformance website and via our outsourced International Enquiry Service. Teleperformance have since confirmed that they are not aware of any issues in any other countries relating to their permissions to operate.

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

Annex A - Cost profile of juxtaposed ports infrastructure and security work

	Committed Joint Fund Activity	Estimated cost €m
1	Redesign of the Calais port tourism zone (including relocating BF into 14 new booths, up from 10 currently)	2.45
2	Rocade fencing along the entry road and to protect the approaches to Calais port	5.1
3	Additional cameras for Calais port perimeter	0.5
4	Extension of Calais port coach hall controls and offices (+ UK VAT). Increases coach controls from 8 to 13 in the coach hall (13 - 17 overall including the secondary coach hall).	3.1
5	Coquelles perimeter security (complete)	0.93
6	Ecluse Carnot fencing for the lock area in Calais port.	0.06
7	Grant offer for security measures at Dunkerque (complete)	0.25
8	Communications work including Op Eros and translators to support PAF.	0.165
9	Contingency for trafficked migrants (as agreed at the Migration Committee on 11 June)	0.75
10	Secure freight queuing at Calais port (truck buffer zone)	2.5
	Committed expenditure	15.805
	Additional Activity (not currently part of Joint Fund)	Estimated cost €m
11	Additional security infrastructure at Coquelles to secure Channel Tunnel.	Final cost to be confirmed
12	Additional funding for Calais Truck Buffer Zone to meet the total €4.5m cost.	2.0