



British
High Commission
New Delhi

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FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

RICHARD STAGG CMG

21 February 2008

BY FAX: vazk@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear Keith,

Many thanks for your manuscript letter of 2 February.

██████████ visit went well, and the accompanying delegation led by ██████████ made a real contribution. I have suggested to London that we should consider repeating this model for future visits.

I'm delighted that the Home Affairs Committee want to visit South Asia as part of your inquiry into the Points Based System (PBS). As you know, the India visa operation will introduce the HSMP component of PBS Tier 1 on 1 April. The rest of the world will follow at the end of June, or early July.

I wonder, however, whether a visit in the second half of June will give the Committee a real chance to look at the PBS. Only part of Tier 1 will have been rolled-out by then, and only in India. Tier 1 is the smallest Tier (in number terms) and the one which involves the least change from the current system (as the HSMP is already a points-based process). PBS will not have been introduced in Bangladesh by the time of your proposed visit.

It is of course up to you and the Committee to decide when is the best time to visit. We are keen to see you here and we will work with you to ensure you get the most out of your time in India. But you might want to consider whether, say, October/November would not be more valuable.

Yours ever,

Dickie

Richard Stagg