

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002422/24
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (PfE), Valérie Deloge (PfE)
(5 November 2024)**

Subject: Rise in HIV diagnoses in the UK and link to mass immigration

According to the latest report by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) ⁽¹⁾, the UK recorded 6 008 new HIV cases in 2023 — an increase of 51% compared to 2022. Of these cases, 53% were first diagnosed overseas, with three quarters of the people affected being from the African continent.

This situation is thus the repercussion of both UK and European migration policies, as migrants often have to enter the Schengen area illegally upstream in order to travel to Great Britain.

The rise in HIV diagnoses confirms the challenges posed by mass immigration — like the burden it places on our health systems — and the need to strengthen public health policies to protect our populations.

1. Is the Commission aware of this worrying situation?
2. What action will it take to tighten the health checks at the EU's external borders?
3. What measures will it take to support the migrants' countries of origin with their health policies?

Submitted: 5.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(24 January 2025)**

The Commission is not aware of the data published by the United Kingdom (UK) Health Security Agency. The UK is no longer a member of the European Union, and matters related to public health in the UK fall under the responsibility of the UK Government.

The Commission does not have evidence to suggest that the rise in human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) diagnoses in the UK is directly linked to migration or the EU's migration policies.

The Commission supports partner countries in strengthening different aspects of their health systems, including activities that support the prevention and treatment of HIV in countries outside the EU.

Specific needs are identified together with the concerned countries. The Commission also supports the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Global Fund works in more than 100 countries, contributing to the prevention and control of the three diseases. Since its creation in 2002, it has contributed to saving 65 million lives.

In 2023 alone, the Global Fund contributed to keeping 25 million people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV. This not only keeps people affected by the disease alive; it also helps reduce transmission of HIV.

¹ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13915237/Migration-fuels-surge-HIV-cases.html>