



Home Office

Kevin Foster MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Chair, Home Affairs Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Chair,

I am writing to you in your role as Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee to inform you the Government has made several announcements today about the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme was launched in April 2019 to ensure members of the Windrush generation are compensated for the losses and impacts they have suffered because they were unable to demonstrate their lawful status in the UK.

We are now extending the duration of the Windrush Compensation Scheme by two years, so people will be able to submit claims until 2 April 2023. This will provide certainty to individuals who may be thinking about making a claim that they will have time to do so. It will also give more time to reach people who are not yet aware of the scheme.

The mitigation policy is also being amended, so a wider range of circumstances and actions taken by individuals to resolve their immigration status, or mitigate losses or impacts, are considered when deciding awards. Whilst we consider it still reasonable to expect individuals would have tried to resolve problems evidencing their lawful right to be in the UK, these changes will enable the Home Office to apply a more flexible consideration in relation to the steps someone took to resolve their situation.

We will soon launch a public appointments process to recruit a permanent Independent Adviser to the Windrush Compensation Scheme. Martin Forde QC, who provided independent advice on the design of the scheme, will continue to serve as Independent Adviser in the interim period.

We will also launch a procurement tender to select an organisation to provide ongoing independent advice and support to claimants for the duration of the scheme. To ensure continuity of service and ongoing support to claimants we are extending the current contract with Citizens Advice until the tender is complete.

Also, today, we will publish a revised Impact Assessment for the Windrush Compensation Scheme. This will be found at gov.uk. Copies will be deposited in the House.

The Second Reading of the Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill will take place on Monday 10 February. The Home Office already has the legal powers to make payments to individuals. This Bill is a short, two clause bill that provides the Home Office with the necessary parliamentary financial authority to make payments under the Scheme.

Finally, I can inform you that up until the 31 December 1,108 claims had been received, with 36 payments made totalling £62,198. Please note many of these payments are interim, which means claimants may receive further awards later. Detailed compensation statistics will be published later this month. Data include payments made up to the end of December 2019.

I hope you will welcome the announcements made today and continue to support the passage of this Bill through the House. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foster', followed by a period. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'F' and a long horizontal stroke.

Kevin Foster MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.