



Home Office

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Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson, MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee

25 April 2022

Dear Chair,

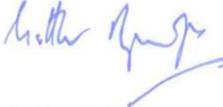
2021/22 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2022 on the publication of the Department's Supplementary Estimates for 2021/22.

I am pleased that the Committee has acknowledged the steps the Department has taken to comply with the guidance issued by the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit on the Estimates process.

We will continue to liaise with the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit and ensure that we comply with the requirements set.

Please find a response to each of the questions you raised in your letter in Annex A which I hope you find satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,


Matthew Rycroft
Permanent Secretary

1. **McCloud Judgement** - £50m additional Resource DEL funding was required following a settlement for 'Cohort 1' for 'injury to feelings' claims in relation to the McCloud judgement, a further £243m was included as a provision for any future liability relating to pension litigation and £195.2m is requested to fund an increase in pension contributions.

Q1. Can you provide greater detail on the £243m provision?

- A provision has been raised for AME non-cash as there was uncertainty as to the amount, timing and liability of Aarons claim against HMG (linked to McCloud Sargeant pensions litigations) and this is for the remaining cohorts seeking compensation
- Our approach to add a provision is solely about ensuring we report for this potential liability correctly, the final settlement will be subject to legal process.
- We will expect HMT, Ministers (HO and HMT) to be fully engaged with any future settlements and approve future payments.

Q2. Are there likely to be further 'injury to feelings' claimants in other cohorts?

- The final settlement and timing of any further payment will be dependent on legal due process. The £243m figure represents the upper best estimate of costs that could be incurred if all cohorts were to be successful but there is considerable uncertainty about the final outcome. The HO is working closely with HMT and GLD on this matter.

2. **Afghanistan Resettlement** - £657.4m additional funding was requested for the 'Afghanistan Relocation and Assistance Programme'. Under this scheme the Home Office has committed to "resettling up to 20,000 Afghans over the long-term, of which, 5,000 will be resettled in the scheme's first year.

Q3. Can you confirm how many Afghans have now been resettled as part of this programme and how many applications are awaiting decision?

- **The Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)**
 - This provides relocation and assistance to current and former Locally Employed Staff directly employed by, or working closely alongside, Her Majesty's Government and assessed to be at serious risk of threat to life in Afghanistan.
 - Over 7,000 people have been relocated to the UK so far through this policy.
- **The Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)**
 - This scheme opened on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.
 - Approximately 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety during and after the evacuation who are eligible for the ACRS through pathway one.
- **ARAP and ACRS**
 - Caseworkers continue to grant Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) through ACRS and ARAP to all those who arrived during the evacuation.

- We have registered over 10k applications on our databases, and continue to enrol biometrics, with a view to having granted ILR to the remainder by the end of June.
- The Home Office will publish the number of people being offered protection under UK Resettlement programmes in its quarterly Immigration Statistics. The next publication will be in May 2022.

Q4. Will this scheme's costs be incorporated into your Main Estimate for 2022/23?

- No, we are closely working with our HM Treasury Spending Team in working up the requirement for 2022/23 and this will form part of the 2022/23 Supplementary Estimates Reserve claim.

3. Airwaves - £79.6m additional funding was required for contractual obligations to Airwaves.

- Of the £79.6m additional Resource DEL funding, £61.1m being for Airwave, with the remaining £18.5m was for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications System (ESMCP).

Q5. Given the on-going 'Competition Markets Authority' (CMA) investigation into Airwaves and the recent 'Competition Appeal Tribunal' judgement rejecting Motorola's appeal against the investigation, how is the Home Office conducting its negotiations with Motorola? And can you confirm that payments made for Airwaves this year are for contractual obligations made before the launch on the CMA investigation?

- We intend to review our position after the outcome of the CMA investigation.
- On that basis, payments made for Airwave this year (FY 2021/22) have been based on existing contractual obligations.