



From the Chairs of the Home Affairs Committee and the Levelling Up, Housing & Communities Committee

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP,
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
2, Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF**

**Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2, Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF**

9 November 2022

Dear Michael and Suella,

Data on arrivals to the UK

In recent years, several significant groups of asylum seekers and others have arrived (and continue to arrive) in the UK, travelling via different means, being held in government-funded facilities and, in some cases, being dispersed to different parts of the country. The make-up of different groups varies in terms of its demographic composition. The Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are, together, responsible for virtually all aspects of initial housing, processing, allocation to local authority areas and subsequent funding, monitoring and reporting in relation to outcomes.

My committee is responsible for the oversight of DLUHC and the Home Affairs Committee for the Home Office. Because of the nature of the issues raised by the UK's asylum system, the two departments must, in slightly different ways, be held to account for the system and its operation. With this background in mind, I am writing to ask that Parliament be provided with statistics which would make it possible for our committees to fulfil their remit of holding the two departments to account.

To this end, we would like to receive quarterly data for 2020, 2021 and 2022, plus annual totals for 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date), separately for asylum seekers from (a) Afghanistan (via the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)) and (b) Ukraine (via the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme). Also, (c) migrants detected in small boats arriving from all countries (including Afghanistan outside the ACRS) and (d) all other arrivals. This should include:

- The numbers held (if any) at Government-supported centres for initial arrivals



- The numbers distributed to each upper tier local authority area either by means of family/individual choice or by government allocation
 - For those allocated by the Government as above, how many were initially sent to (a) hotels or hostels and (b) other accommodation
 - What was the cost of (a) hotel/hostel and (b) other accommodation secured by the government for asylum seekers, by upper tier authority.
- The total of Home Office, DLUHC and other government resources allocated (by upper tier local authority area) to supporting (a) councils, (b) schools and (c) GPs (apart from Home Office/DLUHC direct funding for accommodation) which accommodate asylum seekers.

I realise this is a significant demand for data. Having said this, the Government has published weekly statistics about Ukrainian arrivals, though not quite in the form requested above.

I am sure both the Home Office and DLUHC have maintained good records of asylum seeker numbers, their distribution around the country, public expenditure on relevant services and impacts on public services. Given on-going interest in policy relating to the asylum system, you will understand why Parliament needs (and will continue to need) comprehensive and up-to-date statistics about the operation of the system.

The Committee would welcome a response to this request by 8 December.

With best wishes,

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities Committee

Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair, Home Affairs Committee