



Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Committees

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From the Chairs of the Home Affairs Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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19 January 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

We are writing to ask for information regarding individuals who have sought sanctuary in the UK via the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Home Office data from November 2022 records that the Government has brought 22,833 people affected by the situation in Afghanistan to safety in the UK. Of those who have arrived, 9,242 people (around half of whom are children) are living in 63 temporary bridging hotels, 7,572 people have moved into a home and 779 people have been matched to a home and are waiting to move in.¹

Could you answer the following questions:

1. In November 2021, Minister Victoria Atkins informed the Home Affairs Committee that 4,000 individuals had either moved into a settled home or were awaiting a move-in date.² Over a year later, that number now stands at 8,351. Do you expect to find settled homes for double last year's figure, 9,000 individuals, in 2023? How many new homes are becoming available each month?
2. How many councils have offered accommodation? Which local councils have not provided any accommodation for resettlement?
3. What is the a) average length of stay and b) the longest length of stay for Afghans being housed in hotels, or other forms of temporary accommodation?

¹ [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#) (24 November 2022)

² [Q72](#) Oral Evidence to Home Affairs Committee, 17 November 2021

4. On what basis does the Government make prioritisation decisions for the limited housing resource which is made available to Afghans, Ukrainians and asylum seekers from all other routes?
5. The Government website states that the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office is contacting applicants to confirm whether they are being referred for resettlement under Pathway 3 of the ACRS.³ How many staff are working through the 11,400 expressions of interest for Pathway 3 of the ACRS?
6. How many of the 11,400 people who have expressed an interest in ACRS Pathway 3 have not received any response? What is the average waiting time for an initial response?
7. How many Afghans have been brought to the UK via the UNHCR under ACRS Pathway 2? How do you expect this number to change in the next 6-months?
8. The Government has announced a new £500 million fund for councils in England to acquire housing stock for those fleeing conflict (including from Ukraine and Afghanistan) which is expected to provide up to 4,000 homes by 2024. On what criteria will these homes be allocated? Will this funding be used to address the shortage of large homes often required by Afghan families?

As some of the questions pertain to the FCDO, we are copying this letter to Foreign Secretary James Cleverley.

Yours sincerely



Chair of the Home Affairs Committee
Dame Diana Johnson MP



Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Alicia Kearns MP

³ [Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](#) (GOV.UK)