

Meg Hillier MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Sent via email: pubaccom@parliament.uk

09 December 2020

Dear Ms Hillier,

RE: Windrush compensation scheme: vulnerable persons and working with local authority housing

Thank you for your letter dated 17 November 2020 regarding the response from Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, in respect of the Vulnerable Person's Team and the implications of the Windrush compensation scheme for the work of local and housing authorities. I have checked with my officials and I can confirm that the Local Government Association (LGA) has not been involved in, or consulted on, the process described by Mr Rycroft.

I thought, however, it may be helpful to update on the LGA and local government's work on this issue more widely. Since 2017, many councils have been engaging with individual residents, communities, and local representative groups to support those Commonwealth citizens who are long-term residents of the UK and do not have documents to demonstrate their status. This has included working to help them through the impacts, raise awareness of the compensation scheme, and celebrate the achievement of the 'Windrush' generation.

As councils' national representative organisation, the LGA has repeatedly shared details of the Home Office's work on this. This has included, but is not limited to, details of engagement events they have organised, information on the compensation scheme and other communication resources. This information has been shared to ensure councils are up to date with developments to actively help their engagement with their communities. We also published [advice and information for councils](#) on our website at the time. This included guidance from the Home Office and information from the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Network.

More widely, local authorities play a vital role in alleviating some of the challenges migrant communities face by providing housing and financial support to families, care leavers and vulnerable adults who are excluded from mainstream welfare benefits due to their immigration status. In October 2018 we submitted a [joint response, alongside the NRPF Network, to the Windrush Lessons Learned Review](#). We asked that this Review consider the wider impact of immigration policies that adversely affect people who have a long-term future in the UK and that prevent them from being able to document this.

We continue to campaign for reforms to the NRPF condition. As we fight a second wave of COVID-19, we are seeking a temporary removal of the condition. This would reduce public health risks and ease the pressure on homelessness services by enabling vulnerable people to access welfare benefits, who are currently unable to do so because of their immigration status.

I hope the information outlined is helpful. If the LGA can be of further assistance, please not hesitate to get in touch (jade.hall@local.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mark Lloyd', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mark Lloyd
Chief Executive

Copied to: Yvette Cooper MP, Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee (sent via email: homeaffcom@parliament.uk)