



Home Office

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5 March 2024

Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of 14 February 2024 regarding the 'Move-On Period for Asylum Seekers'. Given the Home Office is responsible for asylum policy, we are responding jointly.

We all agree that we need to clear the backlog of asylum seekers, and we are doing everything in our power to make the transition smoother and easier for all of those involved.

Operational improvements

You asked for an update on progress with operational improvements to make sure individuals and local authorities have the right information they need to support people following an asylum decision.

- The Home Office shares regular data with local authorities on the number of people in their area awaiting an initial asylum decision. Following feedback from local authorities, additional data is now shared about the number of asylum case decisions being made for people accommodated in a local authority area. This is information given for the forthcoming week, the next month and over subsequent months. These details will help local authorities to plan for the number of people leaving the asylum estate in their area over the short and medium term.
- For successful asylum seekers, support is offered by Migrant Help and their partners which includes advice on access to Universal Credit, the labour market and on housing. We have also developed further communications and infographics to outline the next steps for individuals to supplement Migrant Help support. These will be displayed in both providers' properties as well as within local communities. These emphasise the importance of taking steps as soon as a decision is received and provide advice on accessing support from their local authority.
- Finally, we continue to utilise Home Office Liaison Officers (HOLO's), where available, to provide a specific point of contact for local authorities for any discontinuation related enquiries. Following the success in three initial 'test for change' areas, HOLOs will shortly be extended to some local authorities in the North

West, supporting individuals with 'move on' and supplementing the support Migrant Help provide.

Impact of operational improvements

You asked about the impact of operational improvements on the number of refugees experiencing homelessness and local authority pressures.

- The feedback received from those local authorities involved in the HOLO 'test for change' pilot has been positive in enabling better collaboration between councils and the Home Office. The Local Government Association has also welcomed the provision of forward look data enabling local authorities to plan for the volume of individuals that may present themselves following a grant decision. The Home Office continue to meet weekly with Strategic Migration Partnerships to improve the content and accuracy of the data being shared following local authority feedback. Data on statutory homelessness is published regularly (see [Statutory homelessness in England: July to September 2023](#)) and management information is collected from local authorities on rough sleeping, both of which include those leaving the asylum estate (see [Ending Rough Sleeping Data Framework](#)).

Notice periods

Finally, you asked for clarification on notice periods.

- Following an asylum decision, individuals are notified of the 'Move-On period' in their grant letter issued by the Home Office. Accommodation providers will also notify local authorities within two working days of this decision. The Home Office are working with accommodation providers to ensure that this is applied consistently and in a timely manner across all areas.
- Individuals should take note of their grant letter and act swiftly upon receipt to begin the process of securing alternative accommodation, applying for Universal Credit and applying for a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). The policy has been that the 28-day eligibility period starts from when an individual is notified of their asylum decision. While technically the 28 days starts here, we have interpreted this in such a way that the 28-day period truly starts when a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) is issued (expected to be received 5-7 calendar days following a grant decision). Therefore, all individuals who are granted leave should currently be receiving a minimum of 28 days on asylum support after they have been issued a BRP card.
- The Home Office are working to improve processes to ensure BRPs are issued consistently within 5-7 calendar days of receiving a grant decision. In September 2023, a BRP taskforce was established to work at speed to resolve user or process issues with BRP issuance. If an individual discovers an error on their BRP, they can contact Migrant Help for advice and assistance. We encourage individuals to report any issues with their BRP as soon as possible. However, individuals can begin their application for Universal Credit before their BRP arrives.

- Confirmation of the exact date an individual's support and accommodation is due to end will be issued in a separate 'notice to quit' (NTQ) or 'notice to vacate' (NTV) letter from their accommodation provider at least 7 days from the eviction date. An NTQ will only be issued once a person has been issued a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). An individual's support and accommodation will not end unless they have been issued with a BRP and an NTQ. Where this is not the case, Migrant Help can be contacted to request support is maintained or reinstated.

We hope that the committee finds this information helpful.

Yours ever,



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