



**Home Affairs
Committee**

Friday, 10 October 2025

Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP
Minister for Border Security and Asylum
Home Office
Via email

Asylum accommodation

Dear Minister

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee on 10 June in relation to our inquiry into asylum accommodation, and for your follow up letter of 25 June.

There were a number of questions that we did not have time to ask during the session. There are also a number of other questions that have arisen following earlier evidence sessions and site visits, the responses to which are necessary for us to produce a comprehensive and accurate report.

Questions following Home Office oral evidence

Please could you provide further information on the following areas:

Provider profits

- For each of the contracts that have exceeded the profit share threshold, the financial year when the reported profit first exceeded the profit share threshold. (Q 300)
- How much the current independent audit of provider profit and performance has cost, and how much the 2021 audit cost. (Q300)
- The results of the 2021 audit referred to by Minister, and what, if any, changes this prompted in the process for providers to submit profit data to the Home Office. (Q300)



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Subcontracting arrangements

- An outline of what information providers are required to provide to the Home Office about the use of subcontractors in the supply chain, and the Home Office's process for monitoring the use of significant subcontractors. (Q348)

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

- Whether, if an individual is independently assessed by two Home Office officials to be an adult but does not receive a Merton compliant assessment, and subsequently claims to be a child when in adult asylum accommodation, it is the Home Office's policy that providers should automatically refer such cases to the relevant local authority. (Q342)
- A copy of the current AASC/AIRE Provider Age Assessment Standard Operating Procedure. This policy may be shared in confidence if necessary.
- Data currently held by the Home Office on the number of unaccompanied young people who have been initially assessed by the Home Office as significantly over 18, placed into adult asylum accommodation and then subsequently assessed to be children by the relevant local authority.

Addressing impacts on local areas

- The levers the Home Office has to ensure that providers procure in line with Service User Demand Plans. (Q384)
- Whether proposed medium sites will count towards Service User Demand Plans.
- What contractual requirements there are on contract providers to assess the impact of accommodation on local areas.
- Whether the Home Office intends to extend or make permanent the 56-day move on pilot.
- How many Asylum Liaison Move On officers are currently in post, broken down by region?

The Home Office's ten year asylum accommodation strategy

- When the Home Office began work on the ten year strategy.
- When the Home Office expects to finalise its ten year strategy.
- Whether the strategy will be shared with partners, such as local authorities.



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Questions following the National Audit Office report and evidence from AASC providers

Following the publication of the National Audit Office's [report](#) on the Home Office's asylum accommodation contracts, and our [evidence session](#) with the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC) providers on Tuesday 13 May, we wanted to ask for further information on a number of issues that arose. Please could you provide further information on the following areas:

Commercial arrangements in relation to contingency accommodation

- An outline of the process for the procurement of contingency hotels, including how the pricing of sites is negotiated, agreed and documented, and the processes the Home Office has for verifying hotel costs.
- What mechanisms exist for the Home Office to recover money for hotel rooms not in use or not available for use, and how much money has been recovered using such mechanisms.
- Whether AASC providers are paid for bedspaces in a) dispersed accommodation and b) hotel contingency accommodation that is occupied by over-stayers who are no longer entitled to support.

Oversight of AASC providers

- Whether and how the AASC performance management regime, including Key Performance Indicators, applies to Contingency hotels, RAF Wethersfield and Napier Barracks.
- The percentage of properties/bedspaces that were found to be non-compliant with contractual requirements by independent Home Office inspections in the last year, by provider and by type of accommodation.

Profits reported under the contracts

The National Audit Office reported missing profit margin data for the South, Wales and Scotland for 2023/24, and for the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber for both 2022/23 and 2023/24. Representatives from Clearsprings Ready Homes and Mears Group informed us that they submitted this information to the Home Office between September 2024 and February 2025. Please provide the profit margin data that have been submitted by providers for the relevant regions and years, and confirm when the Home Office received this information from providers.



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Safeguarding

- Information about the Home Office's safeguarding review and inspection pilot, including:
 - When the safeguarding review began.
 - The scope of the review.
 - The scope of the inspection pilot, including the resource allocated to the pilot.

Data on asylum accommodation

Please could you provide further information on the following:

- A breakdown of the number of men, women and children accommodated in each type of asylum accommodation (Initial, Dispersed, Contingency hotels and other forms of Contingency), at the latest available date.
- The Home Office's latest estimate of the average cost per person per night of accommodating asylum seekers in a) Standard Dispersal Accommodation (i.e. flats, houses, HMOs) b) Contingency hotels, c) at Wethersfield and d) at Napier Barracks.

Service User Demand Plans

- The regional level Service User Demand Plans as of March 2025 and June 2025.
- Confirmation of which forms of asylum accommodation count towards the Service User Demand Plans (of Initial Accommodation, Contingency Accommodation, Dispersal Accommodation and Additional/Overflow Dispersal Accommodation).

Wethersfield

We had an extremely informative visit to Wethersfield on 7 May, after which we met with representatives from Care4Calais, who work with many of the asylum seekers who reside at Wethersfield. We wanted to ask for responses to some of the issues that were raised with us by Care4Calis, to supplement what we saw on our visit.

Please can you provide us with:

- A breakdown of accommodation by type (permanent building or temporary building), availability of facilities (en suite, separate bathroom in building, or separate bathrooms in external building), and number of asylum seekers accommodated per room.



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- Details of the organised activities available to residents (e.g. education and sport), including their frequency and whether they are arranged by Clearsprings Ready Homes or an external organisation.
- Details of any regular meetings the Home Office and Clearsprings Ready Homes have with local voluntary stakeholders, and whether Care4Calais is excluded from such engagement – and if so, why.
- Details of the procedure for transferring residents to alternative accommodation if they receive a positive reasonable grounds decision through the National Referral Mechanism, including how quickly this should happen.
- Details of the frequency of the shuttle bus service, and whether it is in full operation during the winter months.

In the interests of transparency and accountability we plan to publish your response to this letter. However, if there are elements of your response where there is an overriding need for confidentiality, we request that these are shared separately for the Committee to consider.

We would be grateful for a response by Tuesday 12 August.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Committee