

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30 June 2026

Dear Karen,

Immigration and Asylum Bill

I am writing to inform you that, further to its inclusion in the King's Speech, the Government has introduced the Immigration and Asylum Bill in the House of Commons today.

The Immigration and Asylum Bill will bring into effect the main reforms announced in the Restoring Order and Control statement in November 2025, the most significant policy proposals on asylum in a generation.

This Bill builds on the changes already made, which include securing improved co-operation from a number of countries who had previously refused or very slow to take back their nationals with no right to be in the UK, and increasing returns by 31 per cent in the 19 months since July 2024 with the 19 months previously. But the Government must go further if we are to restore order and control, while also offering sanctuary to those in need and genuinely fleeing danger.

Introduced today, the Immigration and Asylum Bill will make fundamental changes to the immigration system to restore control at our borders and restore public confidence, such as:

- Creating a new fully independent statutory body corporate, the Independent Immigration Appeals Authority, to support expediting the removals of those who are detained with no right to remain in the UK. This will be instrumental to delivering an appeals system that is fair, fast, and can cope with increasing volumes.
- Clarifying and tightening the application of Article 8 (the right to private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to put more emphasis on compliance with our rules and contribution to our economy and to our society. These changes will align us with Strasbourg caselaw and is

consistent with the Council of Europe declaration, restoring consistency across decision-making.

- Building on the concept of “Core Protection” to strengthen the UK’s asylum and immigration by combining refugee status and humanitarian protection into a single core protection model and defining “lawfully staying” for the purpose of the Refugee Convention. This will allow us to impose restrictive leave provisions, such as removing access to public funds, on asylum seekers and refugees who have committed serious crimes but cannot currently be removed.
- Providing new powers to require asylum seekers receiving taxpayer-funded accommodation and other support to provide a contribution towards those costs when they are financially able to do so.
- Reforming the modern slavery framework to address improper use, such as strengthening the disqualification process to ensure those who pose a threat to public order or who have provided information in bad faith can be excluded from entitlements, while maintaining essential protections for victims.

Next steps

The Bill and accompanying documents are available online here:

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/4254>.

I look forward to engaging with you and the Committee on this vital piece of legislation. I would be happy to meet you to discuss the Bill and its contents further. Please do contact my office if you would like to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alex Norris MP

Minister for Border Security & Asylum