

Home Office Additional Asylum Accommodation Specification V2 4/9/20

The Home Office accommodates various demographics of asylum seekers pending consideration of their applications for Leave to Remain in the UK including single males, single females and families. We operate a large accommodation estate nationally, however this is currently at full capacity. We are therefore seeking additional accommodation sites across the UK which can house our service users on either a self-catering or full board basis as contingency to ensure we meet our statutory responsibilities to provide accommodation.

Commented [1]: So is this provides housing for, accommodation for or enables access to accommodation.

Commented [2]: Do you mean "Demographics is defined as statistical data about the characteristics of a population, such as the age, gender and income of the people within the population" or the simple English of "various asylum seekers?"

We are seeking accommodation for single males who can be accommodated in a COVID secure manner, in a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) or hostel style accommodation.

Commented [3]: These are both issues

Transport services will be provided by Home Office service providers.

We are seeking to ramp up facilities urgently and looking to take over sites in the next week.

High level criteria

- We are interested in any sites nationally which are either already set up to provide living accommodation or could be adapted within days to provide living accommodation
- We are interested in sites of any size and capacity but our immediate priority if for large sites that can accommodate in excess of 200 people
- National? Not sure what this means?
- Rural or City
- Preferably available for exclusive use by the Home Office
- Our service users are not held under any detention powers however we would consider are interested in any accommodation that has previously used for detention purposes which can be adapted to be made suitable as well as community based accommodation
- We are primarily looking for accommodation which can accommodate large numbers of people in a hostel style environment but are also interested in any self-contained accommodation units comprising kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms on a house/flat/bedsit configuration suitable for family groups
- Dormitories which can be adapted to be covid-19 compliant are acceptable
- Bathrooms should ideally be within accommodation however sites with external shower and toilet blocks that can be made covid-19 compliant are acceptable
- We are interested in full board or self catering sites
- We anticipate providing our own site presence, security and catering arrangements as needed but can consider sites with existing contractual arrangements

Commented [4]: Is this for people immediately upon arrival in the country? Is so we really do advise that they are required to self isolate for the first 14 days as we don't have good travel histories. This is important and needs to be enabled and enforceable.

Commented [5]: Presumably there is a cost implication of fewer people but this is a significant problem as the entire accommodation would need to be tested and probably isolated in single rooms with single bathroom facilities in the case of any outbreak which is the problem we're faced in both [two places]. Do we want to repeat it?

Commented [6]: This is contradictory with second paragraph which refers to single males.

Lots of people in hostel environment is not good from a COVID or any type of infection prevention and control perspective.

Commented [7]: I don't know how dormitories can be COVID compliant – I'll cross check with DfE to see if they have anything for school trips etc.

Commented [8]: Not good from a COVID secure perspective

- We anticipate needing to use the accommodation for a minimum of three months but potentially up to 12 months.

Commented [9]: COVID will be here for another year

Detailed criteria

We require accommodation sites which can be configured to offer as a minimum:

- Individual bedrooms or the ability to reconfigure dormitories to comply with social distancing
- Sleeping space per individual large enough to accommodate as a minimum 1 bed, 1 single wardrobe and one small cupboard/bedside table
- Access to Laundry or provision of Laundry Services
- Secure office space for the provision of wrap-around/Admin services.
- Space for a communal area/social space
- For self catering sites: access to cooking facilities/kitchen
- For full board sites: A kitchen large enough to cater for all residents
- A communal dining room of appropriate size for the site capacity that can be made COVID secure
- Facility to ensure health and safety and sign in sign out is adhered to to facilitate contact tracing if necessary and contact details when they go out
- There needs to be something about safeguarding and modern slavery as well since if they disappear they may well be being trafficked

Commented [10]: No- only use as below:
This is the youth hostel guidance on gov.uk:
Current government guidance states that private rooms in all indoor accommodation with en suite showering facilities, or one designated shower facility per guest room, will be able to reopen. Shared toilet facilities can also be opened. If shared toilet and shower facilities are in the same room, guests are able to use the toilet but can only use the shower if it is assigned to one household or support bubble or run using a reservation and clean rota. Dormitory rooms will be closed (except where housing parties from the same household or support bubble), as will other indoor shared facilities (e.g. guest kitchens or TV rooms where social distancing cannot be observed). Outdoor accommodation (i.e. campsites) will be allowed to reopen shared showering facilities, as long as they are operated in the manner set out below."

Commented [11]: Not ideal

Commented [12]: Ideally per household/individual

Commented [13]: [name] made the point that these people are not under any form of detention and should be treated like any other member of the population which this is- if we go to a pub/restaurant we have to give details if they need to contact trace – so no different

Commented [14]: I would say some form of this is essential for the safeguarding of the individuals

Commented [15]: Family units are ok as long as they can be kept as separate households from the perspective of self isolation

Desired criteria

These are not essential but helpful if in place:

- Secure perimeter, (fence or wall)
- Gated access to site
- Secure access point(s) to Accommodation blocks
- Scope for family units/larger bedrooms for couples, (ie: rooms large enough to accommodate 2 or more persons whilst adhering to social distancing minimum space-standards)
- Outdoor recreational area
- Existing telephone or broadband connections
- Any sites which offer space which could accommodate pre-fab/temporary housing units.

Supporting Information to accompany potential sites

If available, it would be helpful to know the following about any potential sites:

- Current state of repair the buildings/accommodation
- State of any power /water/sewage supply
- Any existing fixtures fittings
- Details of remedial works needed.
- Approximate indication of how long it would take to bring up to a minimum habitable standard