

Regional/national coordination of arrivals under the Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP)

Overview

UK Government (UKG) has provided **every region/nation** with an initial allocation of Afghan arrivals that they will be expected to **accommodate in transitional accommodation**. The allocation is for arrivals up to March 2026, based on anticipated inflows under the ARP. The regional/national allocations are set out at the end of this document for reference.

We want to give local and devolved governments maximum choice about where and how people are accommodated in their region/nation. Therefore, all SMPs, including those hosted by COSLA, WLGA and the Northern Ireland Executive, are now being asked to facilitate conversations with councils in their area to agree how their allocation should be split across their region/nation.

Note that both UKG procured, and council led transitional accommodation contributes towards accommodating the overall regional/national allocation. It is also the case that transitional accommodation is likely to be 'recycled' as arrivals flow through into settled accommodation.

In completing this template SMPs are asked to include information on:

- Which councils in their region/nation can accommodate arrivals in transitional accommodation, and how many arrivals each council can take (up to March 2026).
- Whether they recommend any specific hotel(s) for UKG to contract in their area (noting that accommodation to be procured by UKG will need to meet the Statement of Requirements, which has been shared with SMPs and attached at Annex B).
- Whether councils in their region/nation might be willing to deliver transitional accommodation themselves, to inform possible participation in a UKG run pilot.

SMPs should then complete and submit this pro forma (one submission per region/nation) setting out how their region/nation will meet their overall allocation and return to SJCUK-LAZURITE-JTAGDUTYOFF@mod.gov.uk by **4 April**. Any early returns will be very gratefully received.

Please note that while the regional/national allocation is for arrivals into transitional accommodation (where they can then stay for up to 9 months), it is expected that arrivals will also be supported into settled accommodation within the same region/nation as far as is possible. While this pro-forma is requesting details of councils who can support with the provision of transitional accommodation as the immediate ask, all councils within the region are expected to play their part in supporting the longer-term accommodation and support needs of this cohort.

Please also be aware that while the initial regional/national allocation is for arrivals up to March 2026 (i.e. the next 12 months), we expect there to be an ongoing need for transitional accommodation for the ARP cohort beyond this date. Updated regional/national allocations will be provided for future years, and a further ask for SMPs to coordinate responses to these - UKG will provide details on the process for future years in due course.

Section 1: Headline information

Name of region/nation: [insert name of region/nation]

Allocation for your region/nation: [this can be taken from Annex A]

SMP lead - contact details: [insert email address]

Section 2: Councils that can support with UK Government-procured transitional accommodation

Please complete this section with details of which councils within your region/nation can accommodate Afghan arrivals in transitional accommodation and provide an indication of how many arrivals they can each take up to March 2026.

The total of all councils' allocations listed below should **equal** the overall total for your region/nation as set out in Section 1.

Best endeavours will be made by UKG to procure accommodation in the areas listed below, in line with their stated capacity to support. However, this will depend on identifying suitable property that meets our **Statement of Requirement for transitional accommodation at the end of this document**. Please therefore consider this during completion of this form.

If suitable accommodation has already been identified by a council, please provide details below. If putting forward a specific hotel/serviced apartment block, please also confirm that the owners have been consulted and are supportive. If suitable accommodation has not yet been identified, UKG will explore options in discussion with the council.

To note, the average household size of arrivals is 5.5. UKG will look to ensure each region/nation receives a representative mix of household sizes. We will endeavour to stagger arrivals into your region/nation and will discuss this further with councils and SMPs following receipt of this pro-forma.

Council	Allocation	Able to start receiving arrivals now? (Y/N) - if no, please indicate when	If you would like to recommend that UKG approaches a specific hotel/serviced apartment block, please indicate details below including any information you hold on how quickly accommodation can be stood up. Please note accommodation must be in line with UKG's Statement of Requirements.	Council contact details for UKG to arrange further conversation
e.g. Alphacrest	150	Y	Y – The Strand Hotel. LA has consulted owner, and they are supportive. Can be stood up quickly (c 2 weeks).	XXX

Section 3: Interest in a council-led transitional pilot

As above, the default position will be UKG procured transitional accommodation to fulfil a region/nation's allocation, likely in the form of hotel accommodation or serviced apartments.

However, longer term we want to move to a system whereby councils deliver a greater proportion of transitional accommodation themselves. This would give local government more control to deliver accommodation and support in a way that manages local pressures, mitigates cohesion risks and delivers better outcomes. We want to pilot this approach in a few areas initially, with the view to scale up at a later stage pending review.

Please use the free textbox below to indicate if any councils in your region/nation would be interested in delivering any or all of their agreed allocation for transitional accommodation (as set out in the table above) themselves. Please include detail on:

- how many arrivals they think they could accommodate and over what timeframe;

- If suitable accommodation has already been identified that the council could procure or utilise to stand up transitional themselves.

This will help inform possible participation in a limited number of pilots to test council-led transitional. Please note that expressing an interest does not bind a council to participating, nor does it guarantee they will definitely be involved in the pilot. UKG officials will follow up with relevant council's post receipt of this pro forma, for further discussion.

[add detail, including contact details for the interested councils for follow up conversations]

Regional/national allocations

The below allocations are the number of individual Afghan arrivals we expect each region to take, up to March 2026. They allocate a total of 560 arrivals a month (6720 in a year), based on anticipated inflows under the ARP. The regional/national allocations are based on a population share approach but also account for unmatched Afghans in transitional accommodation (as on 05 March 2025). These are indicative as we do not have completely definitive arrivals numbers. We would be grateful for offers from regions to go above their regional/national allocation if they feel able to.

Region/nation	Population share accounting for all unmatched Afghans in transitional accommodation (as on 05-March)
SOUTH EAST	496
LONDON	1095
NORTH WEST	890
EAST OF ENGLAND	791
WEST MIDLANDS	575
SOUTH WEST	324
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	616
EAST MIDLANDS	390
NORTH EAST	332
ENGLAND	5509
WALES	316
SCOTLAND	660
NORTHERN IRELAND	235
UK TOTAL	6720

UKG's Statement of Requirements for ARP Transitional Accommodation

This Statement of Requirements outlines what UKG considers when identifying suitable transitional accommodation (TrA) to support the Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP). These requirements are necessary to ensure operational viability, maximise opportunity for successful long-term integration, and for the safety and comfort of guests who will be predominately families. Primarily we expect that TrA will be hotels or serviced accommodation, but if it meets our criteria, we will consider other accommodation options. Further detail on each requirement can be provided. This approach is consistent with that taken for other TrA procured and operated by UKG.

Requirements

Capacity: To ensure value for money and suitable resource allocation, larger hotels with bedspace capacity of at least 100, or Serviced Accommodation in hubs of at least 5, are the minimum capacity requirements.

Location: The location of the TrA and its proximity to local amenities is key to enabling successful integration and a degree of independence. The preference is for large towns, close to shops, transport, public services, amenities, and places of worship. TrA should not be on motorway junctions or large A-roads unless bus stops are located directly outside. Ideally the TrA would be close to green space, within hotel grounds or a short walk away, to allow children a safe place to play (desirable but not essential).

TrA suitability: The TrA must have suitable facilities to ensure a comfortable, safe stay. As a general indicator, that would mean a minimum of 3-star accommodation. Rooms must be suitably sized to accommodate families, or configurable to enable extra beds/cots as required; all rooms are to be ensuite. In hotels, a suitably sized dining area and on-site catering facilities that can provide 3 halal meals is essential. We would expect a large communal space and a few small private meeting rooms to be included to facilitate activities like townhalls and conversations with UKG support staff on site. The TrA must be suitable for habitation throughout all seasons and weather conditions.

Security: A separate on-site security provision will be put in place by UKG as part of the commercial contract. This service will complement the contracted venue's service provision. Full time reception services must be provided to complement the UKG contracted security services.

Resettlement and integration consideration: When considering suitable locations, UKG considers 4 key factors within resettlement planning. These are: existing social pressures; local housing market availability and demands; current population, including asylum dispersal; and location viability. UKG will endeavour to place TrA in areas identified as most suitable within Regional/national plans and against any TrA offered by the Local Authority (LA).

Community cohesion considerations: When considering suitable TrA locations, UKG will take community cohesion into account.

Commercial: All accommodation and catering provision must meet value for money scrutiny. If TrA is proposed by a LA, it must be willing to be contracted for this purpose and for a minimum of 9 months.

Next steps

Once a suitable TrA site has been identified by a LA, UKG teams will work with the LA and TrA management team to ensure suitability and viability. Assuming this, UKG will then look to contract the TrA and stand it up with close engagement with the LA.