



HM Government

2 Marsham Street
London
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19 March 2025

Dear Leader, Chief Executives and SMPs,

It was a pleasure to speak with you at the local authority webinar we hosted on 5 February in which we set out our plans for the Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP), which went live on 1 March.

In a follow up letter of 25 February, we provided further detail on the key components of this programme which is a cross-government priority as we deliver on the pledge to those in Afghanistan who are eligible to relocate and resettle in the UK.

It is testament to the support of local government that we have been able to resettle over 30,000 Afghans since August 2021, but there is much more work to do, and we urgently need further support from the sector given your experience and expertise.

Following a discussion at an [Asylum and Resettlement Ministerial and Local Government Forum](#) on 18 March and discussions in devolved administrations, we are now writing to set out the regional/national approach we are taking to the ARP and the asks being made of local authorities to support this.

Attached to this letter is a document which summarises our discussion on 18 March and explains our ask of local government. **Specifically, we are asking SMPs, and the relevant bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to complete the regional/national response template provided with this letter by 4 April and to return this to SJCUK-LAZURITE-JTAGDUTYOFF@mod.gov.uk. Any early returns will be very gratefully received. The statement of requirements provided should be used to inform these responses.**

The completed regional/national response should set out in the broadest terms how each region/nation will meet their initial regional/national allocation of Afghan arrivals up to March 2026. We will then keep these allocations under review and work with local government on these allocations going forwards.

Given the need to find additional bedspaces for 1,000 new arrivals coming to the UK in the spring, we would be grateful if the responses could include information on where you can support UK Government (UKG) procured transitional accommodation in your region/nation and an indication of your current or future willingness to provide council led transitional accommodation on a voluntary basis (with funding to do so). Further information is below and any contribution you make now will count towards your regional/national allocations.

Unfortunately, if local authorities do not voluntarily come forward to support UKG procured transitional accommodation, we will need to move ahead and procure that accommodation in any event, in line with regional/national allocations, and in that scenario would still encourage the relevant council to draw down on the integration tariff.

The Home Office will also shortly be writing out to local authorities to ask them to consider expressing interest in participating in pilots for a new model of asylum accommodation. While these are distinct asks and distinct cohorts, both of these approaches reflect our overall ambition to give local areas more control in the accommodation and support for new arrivals in their area.

These asks of councils will be underpinned by the core components of the ARP including:

Providing a maximum of nine-months in transitional accommodation: From 1 March 2025, transitional accommodation will be provided for all Afghans on the ARP for a maximum of nine months. Afghan arrivals already in transitional accommodation in the UK, will be moved on to the ARP and receive a maximum of nine months support in transitional accommodation, effective 1 March 2025.

Supporting access to the private rented sector and providing a pipeline of settled accommodation: The primary source of settled accommodation for arrivals should be in the private rented sector. We will encourage everybody to look for their own accommodation for the longer-term, with advice and casework support from councils as appropriate. Guidance on the Find Your Own Accommodation (FYO) pathway has been provided to councils. Funding for case working support from councils is included in the tariff. However, we will also fund a pipeline of settled housing for around half of the arrivals, for whom the private rented sector is less appropriate. This will be sourced from a combination of community sponsorship through the Communities for Afghans scheme, some service family accommodation and capital funding for additional supply from the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) and its successor, which we will say more about after the Spending Review. We are keen to work with you to build on learning from previous schemes on how best to support this group find permanent homes.

A single streamlined tariff of £24,110 over three years: We are moving to a single integration tariff amounting to £24,110 over three years. In the first year this will be split. The first of these payments will be a £5,400 lump sum, which local authorities can claim following an individual's arrival into transitional accommodation in their area recognising the up-front cost to councils.

Two further payments of £3,600 and £3,410 will be available in months 4 and 10 respectively, to help meet the ongoing costs of housing and integration support during an arrival's first year. These will be paid to either the transitional local authority or the settled, depending on who is providing support at the time the claim is made.

Further tariff payments of £6,550 and £5,150 will be available in years two and three respectively.

In addition to the integration tariff, local authorities will be able to claim up to £5,130 per child aged 5-18 and £2,965 per child aged 3-4 to help meet the costs of education in year one. This education tariff will be split into three proportional payments aligned with the three year-one integration tariff payments. A single, one-off payment of £2,600 per person will also be available to Integrated Care Boards and Health Boards in year one to support healthcare on arrival. Funding instructions with further detail will follow.

Resetting expectations and providing integration support before arrival: We are enhancing integration support for Afghans pre-arrival, focusing on a range of proactive activities for which we have just contracted the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to provide for us overseas. The work carried out by the IOM will help set expectations about life in the UK and include information in essential areas like navigating the UK rental sector, enhancing employability, and understanding UK society and attitudes. The Government/IOM is also addressing crucial concerns relating to issues of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

We would like to end this letter by saying thank you for all of your and your teams' work on this programme so far. This work, alongside work to support the resettlement of other cohorts represents the very best of local government, and we look forward to further joint working and collaboration as the ARP develops.

We are copying this letter to our colleagues in the devolved governments.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Luke' and the signature on the right is 'W. Khan'.

Lord Khan of Burnley
Lords Minister for Faith, Communities and Resettlement

Luke Pollard MP
Minister for the Armed Forces

SUMMARY ASK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON ARP IMPLEMENTATION

1. Regional/national Allocations

We committed to moving towards a model where every region/nation receives an allocation of Afghan arrivals (under the ARP) into transitional accommodation.

Annexed to the regional returns template is every region/nation's initial allocation, for arrivals over the next 12-months (up to March 2026).

Our ask: Given the urgency of the need to accommodate arrivals, Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) and the relevant bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should complete the attached template (accompanying this letter and summary document) setting out their regional/national response for ARP transitional accommodation and return this by 4 April to SJCUK-LAZURITE-JTAGDUTYOFF@mod.gov.uk. Any early returns will be very gratefully received. The statement of requirements provided should be used to inform these responses.

All SMPs, including those hosted by COSLA, WLGA and the Northern Ireland Executive are being asked to coordinate conversations across their remit to:

- agree how these allocations will be split at a local level, and
- test appetite and ability of local authorities in the region/nation to stand up transitional accommodation themselves.

Both UKG procured and council-led transitional accommodation (to be provided on a voluntary basis, with appropriate funding) contribute towards accommodating the overall regional/national allocation - see sections 2 and 3 below for further detail. While the regional/national allocation is for arrivals into transitional accommodation, the expectation is that arrivals will be supported into settled accommodation within the same region/nation, as far as possible. We will keep these allocations under review and work with local government on these allocations going forwards, but every region/nation is expected to play their part in supporting this vulnerable cohort. Local authorities not able to support with transitional accommodation should consider how they can support moves into settled accommodation including via the Find Your Own pathway.

These allocations are based on a population share approach but also account for where areas are already hosting Afghans in transitional accommodation who remain unmatched. We recognise that this approach is not perfect but have opted for a straightforward but clear approach in order to provide regions/nations with certainty more quickly, enabling you to plan for the year ahead.

However, we are committed to undertaking longer-term work, in collaboration with local government, to explore a resettlement indexing tool (based on that used for asylum seekers) to ensure our approach is evidence based and informed by a variety of factors that influence an area's capacity to accommodate new arrivals. Regions and nations will be able to work flexibly within that and may of course agree an approach

that involves subregions or groups of councils working together within that total allocation

2. UKG procured transitional accommodation

We have a responsibility to ensure that Afghans arriving in the UK are able to start their lives safely and securely. **In the short term, we need 1,000 bed spaces urgently.**

To that end, **we are urgently working to procure transitional accommodation, mainly in the form of hotels to support new arrivals under the ARP.** This is to be able to continue to move people to safety against our urgent requirements. We are keen to do this with the support of councils as far as possible.

Any contribution you make now will count towards your regional/national allocations and we would be extremely grateful if local authorities are able to come forward with offers on this.

If offers of support are not forthcoming, we will need to change our approach and commence procurement directly to ensure that we can resettle eligible persons. UKG would look to procure hotels in every region/nation, in line with the allocation, and will work with councils with those hotels to ensure support is put in place.

3. Council-led transitional accommodation

We think that giving local authorities greater control over where and how ARP households are accommodated, could improve cohesion and integration outcomes. That is why, as part of meeting your overall allocations, we are keen to test this with a small number of areas who are willing to stand up transitional accommodation themselves, as part of a co-designed pilot. We would encourage interested councils to express their interest through the regional/national response that SMPs are coordinating.

4. Provision of housing and integration support to arrivals

All local authorities hosting transitional accommodation, whether procured by UKG or stood up by themselves, will also need to provide the wraparound integration support, and can draw down the integration tariff to do so.

For those in transitional accommodation from 1 March, claims should be made under the new, single tariff of £24,110 per arrival claimable over a three-year period. The new funding instructions will be available in late spring 2025; in the meantime, the summary of funding included with our previous letter is re-attached for ease and indicates the main changes. For those who were in settled accommodation before 1 March, claims should be made on the old tariff under the previous Funding Instructions (FIs).

While the regional/national allocation is for arrivals into transitional accommodation, the expectation is that arrivals then **will be supported into settled accommodation within the same region/nation**, as far as possible.

Local authorities are asked to provide case working support for new arrivals, using the tariff funding, to support them to move-on into settled homes, enabling them to establish roots and integrate into local communities and begin the path to self-sufficiency. We are particularly pleased to be working with the 14 councils where there is existing transitional accommodation to support housing move-on for this group.

The Home Office will continue to match households into available properties; we expect the pipeline to accommodate roughly half of arrivals in the long term. Matching guidance is being adjusted to ensure as far as possible that available properties are allocated to households with greater housing need, while limiting voids. This updated guidance will be published in the coming weeks.

As around half of eligible persons will not receive an allocation of settled accommodation through the matching process, households are also being encouraged to search for and secure private rental properties through the Find Your Own (FYO) accommodation pathway. **We are asking all councils to consider and accept referrals made through FYO in this collective effort on resettlement** – to support in the property search as local experts, helping resettled households find suitable and sustainable tenancies that are most conducive to their longer-term integration. The integration tariff - providing up to three years funding - is available for every individual accepted and supported into your area.

Queries and next steps

If you have any queries and to begin discussions on your regional/national allocation, please contact your SMP.