

February 2025

Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP)

FAQs

Contents

- 1) [ARP arrivals and regional allocations](#)
- 2) [Funding](#)
- 3) [Hotels](#)
- 4) [Support for families](#)
- 5) [Accommodation](#)
- 6) [Local Authority Housing Fund \(LAHF\)](#)
- 7) [Communications](#)

ARP arrivals and regional allocations

Q: Are you able to share further details of the annual regional allocation and the duration of the ARP scheme?

- Over the past 12 months, we have welcomed around 6-7000 families and although it is hard to predict with certainty, we expect this pace to continue. This figure consists of expected arrivals across all Afghan schemes including the Triples review, Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and the Afghan Citizens Relocation Scheme (ACRS) family reunion pathway. As elements of the schemes remain open to applications, this is our best assumption.
- Ministers confirmed at the recent webinar that we will be moving to be a model based on regional allocations where every area plays their part but also has more certainty of arrivals from which to plan. We are working up details now as to how this could work and will want to work closely with councils and the LGA, COSLA and WLGA over the next few months to design this in further detail.
- We are clear, however, that this cannot be an endless process and ultimately, the Government intends to reach a position where the UK Afghan resettlement schemes can be closed.

Q: Will commitment to numbers of new arrivals received in each local authority (LA) be voluntary or mandatory?

- All local authorities will be expected to play their part in providing support to the scheme as part of a joint endeavour between central and local government, including supporting people housed in HMG procured transitional accommodation to move-on successfully or providing transitional accommodation directly with the right funding and overall arrangements.

Q: How will arrival allocations be decided including for the devolved nations?

February 2025

- Our objective is to achieve a fair and sustainable long-term system for resettlement where every council and part of the UK does their bit. To enable this, we want to work towards a model where each region receives an agreed allocation of new Afghan arrivals into transitional accommodation.
- We are working up details now as to how this could work and will want to work closely with councils and the LGA, COSLA and WLGA and our partners directly in the devolved nations to work through how this can best be managed within their areas.

Q: How will arrival numbers impact upon on the safe and legal routes cap?

- The government is retaining the power at Section 60 of the Illegal Immigration Act 2023 to set an annual cap on the number of people who arrive into the UK via safe and legal routes. We will continue to engage with partners, including local authorities, to ensure the cap is set appropriately and aligns with broader arrangements to create a more sustainable and well-managed system. Further information will be shared in due course.
- The Government's priority is the resettlement and relocation of those already identified as eligible. The government's approach to resettlement is to consider the significant and increasing challenge of global displacement and seek to address root causes, deliver effective upstream interventions, and offer resettlement, in line with the UK's capacity to welcome and integrate refugees.

Q: What checks and assurances can we get around safeguarding around new arrivals and what assurance can you provide around the removal of anyone who breaks the law in this way?

- The people who are relocated here, have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK and are not illegal immigrants, asylum seekers or refugees. All Afghans undergo thorough security checks before arriving in the UK.
- As part of their pre-departure orientation, the rights and responsibilities of those arriving as well as standards of behaviour are covered. Anyone who commits an offence will be dealt with in the usual way under the criminal justice and immigration system.

Funding

Q: What is the £3 million pre-ARP housing caseworking funding for, and can you clarify what you mean by casework?

- We are pleased to offer an additional £3 million funding shared between councils in England, Scotland and Wales, where MoD defence estate (whether RSOM or TSFA) or hotels are currently in use as transitional accommodation. This is intended for bespoke housing casework support the move on of EPs currently staying in these sites, ahead of the new ARP tariff.
- Previous experience of bridging hotel exit has shown that local authorities are best placed to facilitate move-on into settled housing, as an integrated part of their broader resettlement work. Councils and caseworkers may work with His Majesty's

February 2025

Government (HMG) and other councils, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), housing providers and private sector landlords as appropriate to facilitate access to suitable settled housing across the UK for the households currently in the transitional accommodation.

Q: What overall funding will be available from HMG to enable councils to support Afghan arrivals?

- Afghan resettlement funds have historically been distributed across multiple pots. Under the Afghan Resettlement Programme, we will ensure a simpler landscape that reduces administrative burdens, maximises value for money and allows for longer-term planning and funding certainty. This means streamlining ongoing funding into a **core tariff amounting to £24,110 over 3 years for all arrivals** on the Afghan Resettlement Programme from the 1st of March. This is an amendment to the former £20,520 integration tariff to incorporate the wraparound, housing and homelessness support elements that were previously distributed through the Wraparound Support, Flexible Housing, and temporary accommodation and homelessness support funds, which will no longer be available. This will include funding to allow council capacity specifically for housing move-on supported by caseworkers.
- Tariff funding may be pooled and used flexibly to deliver the statement of outcomes for all those who it is being claimed for.
- **In addition to the core tariff, there will remain separate one-time education and health tariffs.** These will be at a rate of:
 - £5,130 per child between the ages of 5 and 18, and £2,965 per child between the ages of 3 and 4 years for education costs in the first year, and;
 - £2,600 per person for all for health costs in the first year

Q: The full funding breakdown is:

- **There will be a 3-year Tariff of £24,110 per person** to support all new resettled Afghan arrivals to integrate into the UK and become self-sufficient more quickly in the early years. (This is explained in a separate funding note with more detailed funding instructions to follow).
- In Year 1, local authorities will be able to claim:
 - i) £12,410 per person – Integration tariff
 - ii) £ 5,130 per child (5-18 years) – Education tariff
 - iii) £ 2,965 per child (3- 4 years) – Education tariff
- Funding in year 1 will consist of three payments:
 - i) **Payment 1 - £5,400 pp (44%)**, an initial tariff payment to help meet upfront costs of providing support to people in transitional accommodation. The funding may be

February 2025

claimed on the arrival of people into transitional accommodation and in line with the HO claims submission schedule. *Paying it in a lump sum rather than per person per night is to enable councils with transitional accommodation to have the certainty of funding to enable the recruitment of staff as necessary to provide caseworking, initial orientation and integration support*

- ii) **Payment 2 - £3,600 pp (29%)**, a second payment to cover months four to nine. This can be claimed once and by either the transitional or settled LA for ongoing support in transitional accommodation or to support household's move into their settled home and to integrate there. *The second payment point at month four aims to help ensure the right council receives the funding depending on how long the individual has needed to reside in transitional accommodation*
 - iii) **Payment 3 - £3,410 pp (27%)**, the final payment in year one that can be claimed once in the tenth month by either the settled LA or the LA providing homelessness support.
- **Year 2: Payment 4 - £6550 per person (single payment)**: to settled LA for support in year 2 if they continue to support under the scheme and the beneficiaries remain in the local authority area.
 - **Year 3: Payment 5 - £5150 per person (single payment)**: to settled LA for support in year 3 if they continue to support under the scheme and the beneficiaries remain in the local authority area.
 - **In addition to the core tariff, there will remain separate one-time education and health tariffs**. These will be at a rate of:
 - i) £5,130 per child between the ages of 5 and 18, and £2,965 per child between the ages of 3 and 4 years for education costs in the first year, uprated from £4,500 and £2,600 respectively, and;
 - ii) £2,600 for all for health costs in the first year
 - The education tariff will be split into three payments aligned with the three-year 1 integration tariff payments:
 - i) Education Payment 1 – £2,257.20 child (5-18 years) and £1,304.60 per child (3-4 years): available to be claimed by the LA hosting transitional accommodation upon arrival.
 - ii) Education Payment 2 – £ 1,487.70 child (5-18 years) and £859.85 per child (3-4 years): claimable by transitional or settled LA for support into settled housing.
 - iii) Education Payment 3 – £ 1,385.10 child (5-18 years) and £800.55 per child (3-4 years): claimable by settled LA or the LA providing homelessness support.
 - The health care tariff may be claimed during Year 1 by the relevant healthcare provider in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

February 2025

Q: Are local authorities able to use 'wrap around support' funding which was received when previously supporting the ARAP cohort?

- Local authorities may use any unused Home Office (HO) funding claimed and received for ACRS and ARAP arrivals to continue to support the statement of outcomes for the ARP, which is a direct successor of the former schemes.

Q: How will funding work in two tier local authority areas?

- Local authorities may continue to decide how they want to receive the HO funding.

Q: Can a local authority keep any savings made where they are successful settling a family into accommodation?

- Tariff funding may be pooled and used flexibly to deliver the statement of outcomes for all those who it is being claimed for. It may not be used for any other people who do not qualify for the grant funding or who are covered under any other HMG grant funding.
- Local authorities should only claim funding that they require and not to seek to profit.
- If families move on quicker from transitional accommodation to settled accommodation (either via PRS or HMG sources), we expect both LAs involved to be in closely communication and decide how best to resolve any funding issues/claims.

Q: Will any leftover funding be transferred from the transitional local authority to those offering the settled accommodation?

- LAs are expected to agree all aspects of funding to address move-on requirements.
- We expect local authorities to discuss and arrange any transfer of tariff funds amongst themselves. The Home Office will not be involved once funding has been paid to local authorities.

Q: How will LAs claim for exceptional costs for situations like Special Education Needs (SEN) claims, property adaptations or social care?

- Exceptional cost funding may be sought to cover essential costs incurred above and beyond what could reasonably be regarded as normal expenditure and not available through other mainstream funding e.g. for major property adaptations, support for children with complex identified educational needs or social care provision. We do not cover the cost of extensions to properties from this funding. Further information can be found in the funding instructions which will be published in late spring 2025.

Q: Will the current claims forms / procedures / claim periods remain as is for existing families or will they all be required to switch to new instruction forms / procedures?

- The claims forms and process for the new funding package will be designed to closely mirror existing claims procedures.
- **We encourage local authorities to reconcile claims under the current Hotel Wraparound funding instructions and submit finalised claims for those they**

February 2025

provided support to at transitional sites, by 31 May 2025 at the latest. If claims are not submitted by this date, the Home Office will assume that there will be no claim forthcoming. Local authorities are encouraged to reach out to the Home Office if they need support in submitting these claims.

Q: If a family is matched to property now but don't move until after 1st March 2025, do they get new funds or the current?

- The new funding package is only applicable to those living in HMG provided transitional accommodation on 1 March 2025.
- Local authorities who are currently supporting individuals in transitional accommodation as of 1 March 2025 will be able to claim the new funding package. They will no longer be able to claim further funding post 28 February 2025 linked to previous funding instructions for households who are not in settled home.
- **We encourage local authorities to reconcile claims under these funding instructions and submit finalised claims for those they provided support to at transitional sites by 31 May 2025 at the latest.** If claims are not submitted by this date, the Home Office will assume that there will be no claim forthcoming. Local authorities are encouraged to reach out to the Home Office if they need support in submitting these claims.

Q: What happens after the first three years funding-wise?

- The integration tariff can be claimed by LAs for the first 3 years only, after which households will be expected to support themselves. There will be no further integration funding available at the end of this 3-year period. This is also applicable for those families who arrived in the UK under the ACRS and ARAP schemes since 2021.

Hotels

Q: Is the opening of hotels as transitional accommodation going to continue to be by agreement with the LA?

- The success of the ARP is contingent upon the cooperation between HMG and local authorities. As the continued and invaluable support from local authorities has been instrumental to the successful operation of both our transitional accommodation sites and supporting moves into settled accommodation, we expect that local authorities will continue their brilliant support of Afghans under ARP.

Q: What are the detailed roles and responsibilities of the hotels?

- ARP marks a fundamental shift in the Government's approach to Afghan resettlement, drawing together the existing schemes into one pipeline with a uniform offer of

February 2025

funding and support once eligible individuals arrive in the UK, becoming a cross-Government effort.

- The MoD will procure hotels, provide oversight and assurance to the management of the hotel with the support of Home Office Liaison Officers (HOLOs) who will be available on-site to assist with the families' transition to life in the UK. As the expert leaders of integration support, we will rely on local authorities, supported by additional funding provided by HMG, to continue to provide the integration support to Afghan families.

Q: Will procurement of hotels include catering offers?

- Yes, procurement will include catering offers.

Q: Will any London borough be considered for a hotel?

- Our strong expectation is that every local area, including London Boroughs, will play their part in terms of establishing transitional accommodation and helping to resettle and integrate their regional fair share of Afghans into their local areas. This will ensure an equitable share across the UK. We welcome offers on hosting transitional accommodation.

Q: Will previous bridging hotels be procured for ARP?

- The decision to contract an individual site will ultimately rest on its suitability for the ARP, but we will take into account local authority feedback.

Q: Has consideration been given to procuring 'smaller' hotel or contingency sites to ease dispersal pressures?

- When considering the placement of transitional accommodation for new Afghan arrivals, the Government works closely with Strategic Migration Partnerships and local authorities to consider pressure on local areas and community cohesion. We will work closely with local authorities to refine policies over the coming months via the appropriate fora, including the Resettlement Local Authority Network (RLAN).

Q: Could you update on what lessons have been learnt from the previous bridging hotels and schemes and how these are being addressed

- We always seek to apply the learning from previous programmes and looked carefully at hotel exit when we were designing this new process. Lessons learnt from 'hotel exit' and more generally through Afghan resettlement to date including council feedback to date have helped shape for example:
 - the maximum length of time in transitional accommodation at 9 months to strike the right balance between time required to effectively casework and support people to move into settled but not creating a dependency culture,
 - the centrality of caseworking to the model seeing its success especially in hotel exit

February 2025

- the continuing need for a settled pipeline of accommodation to be prioritised for those large and complex families to enable move-on from hotels for the hardest to house and prioritising expressions of interest for the third round of LAFH that are for large properties

Support for families

Q: Please can you clarify whether the MoD, Home Office and Mears will continue to manage the move-on and this will not be the responsibility of the local authority?

- We are very grateful to those local authorities who have been instrumental in providing Afghans with the best possible start to their integration journey in the UK at Defence transitional sites. The continuing success of ARP relies on your invaluable support and assistance and MHCLG is making additional funding available to support the move-on of households currently in these transitional sites (or arriving before implementation of ARP) into settled housing, through intensive case working. The MoD is still committed to gradually returning the Defence Estate to its original use.
- From March 1st, all Afghans including those residing in transitional sites will be switched to the ARP. As transitional accommodation will be limited to 9 months, HM Government is looking to work together with local authorities to support Afghans' move-on during this time.

Q: How do you intend to change and improve the Find Your Own Accommodation Pathway to make it more navigable for Afghan families and facilitate access to Private Rental Sector (PRS)?

- We know that the 'Find Your Own' (FYO) pathway supported by intensive case working can deliver; as at end January 2025 over 3,500 people had moved into the private rented sector through this pathway, right across the whole country and not just in the place they started. FYO products for councils and Afghan councils are uploaded on the Knowledge Hub.
- We are refreshing the FYO products available to local authorities on how to support Afghans into settled PRS accommodation and would welcome your views on the existing process and how to overcome any challenges or barriers to date. We are also planning to produce new FYO materials to better inform resettled Afghans of their housing options and the property search process.

Q: What support is available to help households overcome barriers to private rental sector housing access resulting from for instance LHA rates and benefit caps?

- The new streamlined and flexible tariff funding allows councils to decide how best to support move on. For example, you might choose to top up rents to make a property affordable and then support them to secure work so that they can sustain their rent independently.

February 2025

- There are also a range of useful resources, including national Rightmove listings within LHA rates on Knowledge Hub, which we are also updating. We are also currently looking at ways to facilitate practice sharing between councils.
- It is also important to encourage arrivals to be realistic in their expectations of where they can live while relying on benefits and encouraging them to consider affordable locations and properties.

Q: What is the name of the organisation commissioned to provide cultural orientation support prior to arrival into UK?

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will continue to provide pre-departure cultural orientation support. More details can be found here: [Pre-Departure & Post-Arrival Support Resources for local authorities | IOM United Kingdom](#).

Q: How would homeless responsibilities be shared beyond LA areas with hosting transitional accommodation?

- Our objective is to achieve a fair and sustainable long-term system for resettlement, where every council and part of the UK does their bit. To enable this, we want to work towards a model where each region receives an agreed allocation of new Afghan arrivals into transitional accommodation.

Q: Families on Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM)/ Transitional Serviced Family Accommodation (TSFA) sites for over 12 months. Who is responsible for their on-going accommodation needs?

- The support of all local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales is required to help move Afghans from MoD Transitional Accommodation into settled homes in other parts of the UK.
- We are expecting an increase in FYO activity as local authority's work with Afghans currently on MoD estate, in an effort to move them on, alongside matching to Home Office coordinated offers. Some people have been on the MoD Estate for over 12 months, and we appreciate your efforts in helping welcome families into your communities.

Accommodation

Q: Will there be details on what is classed as transitional accommodation? Current SFA arrangements are for 3 years. Is this settled or transitional?

- Transitional accommodation includes all accommodation previously procured by HMG and new hotel accommodation procured by the MoD for the purpose of providing temporary accommodation for all eligible persons under ARP.

February 2025

- Types of accommodation can include hotels and serviced apartments alongside reduced use of the Defence estate.
- Transitional accommodation is not, and has never been, intended to be a settled housing solution. Transitional accommodation is provided as a safe interim solution while the UK government continues to support households to find their own settled homes.
- MoD Service Family Accommodation (SFA) that was leased direct to families or local authorities is regarded as settled accommodation. At the end of the MoD lease families will be expected to find their own accommodation unless the MoD offers an extension to them. Extensions may be offered in exceptional circumstances.

Q: How was the 9-month transitional accommodation period decision reached?

- All arrivals on the Afghan Resettlement Programme will be provided with transitional accommodation for up to 9-months. This transitional arrangement is intended to provide a reasonable timeframe for newly resettled people to orient into the country and is intended to strike a balance between allowing people adequate time to work towards independent living in the longer-term, without creating dependency, and having regard to the overall value for money for the scheme.
- Local authorities will be expected to provide case working support to orientate and sign-post new arrivals to services in the UK and crucially 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.
- The expectation is that arrivals will be supported to find their own settled homes via the FYO Accommodation Pathway and with above referenced support from local authorities.

Q: Is a RSOM site considered to be temporary accommodation?

- RSOM sites are Ministry of Defence sites intended for short stays.

Q: Are Mears still working on rehousing from the Transitional accommodation?

- Yes, MoD has engaged Mears to provide additional caseworkers at every Defence site with transitional accommodation under ARP, to facilitate Afghan families to find suitable settled accommodation. These caseworkers will work together with each of the local authorities that have a Defence transitional accommodation site and with whom MHCLG is engaging. Mears support is expected to end later this year.

Q: How are you supporting homelessness services?

- We recognise the impact new arrivals from resettlement schemes can have on LA homelessness services, and so as part of the process of developing this programme, have ensured additional pressures are reflected in the overall available tariff for this group.

February 2025

- Under the Afghan Resettlement Programme, funding for housing, temporary accommodation and homelessness support is incorporated into the streamlined single tariff for this group (£24,110 over 3 years).
- This tariff also includes funding for LAs to provide case worker led move-on support, which is intended to support arrivals in finding settled accommodation and reduce homelessness risk.

Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)

Q. Larger LAHF properties are often designed by builders as 'executive' level properties and therefore much more expensive than smaller e.g. 3 beds. Is MHCLG able to influence developers on this aspect?

- LAHF provides flexibility for local authorities to determine the most appropriate delivery to deliver LAHF homes as best suits their local housing market. Homes can be delivered via a variety of routes, including, but not limited to: open market acquisitions, right to buy buy-back schemes, direct purchases from developers and development of new stock.
- LAs have chosen a variety of different options to deliver new supply themselves, including conversions of commercial buildings into residential, utilising modern methods of construction (MMC) and working with registered providers to deliver new homes.

Q. In order to prioritise properties for larger families (e.g. 5-bedroom need or larger) further consideration should be given to the grant rate available as these properties tend to cost significantly more than the average property in an area.

- We recognise that sourcing large property for the larger resettlement households can be challenging. Local authorities could explore whether extended families are able to split into two households – for example if they have adult children within the group. In this scenario, two separate properties could be acquired, both with a grant (where terms of the fund are met), within close proximity to meet the needs of larger households.
- The use of LAHF R3 funding to create one large home from two smaller units might also be considered. As part of the recent LAHF 3 expression of interest (EOI) invitation (January 2025), we asked local authorities to indicate if they would be interested in delivering very large homes if a higher grant rate was available. We will shortly be contacting local authorities who submitted EOIs with the outcome of this process and have prioritised within that EOIs that offered larger properties as we know that is where the need is most acute for Afghan families.

Q. If LAHF is one of the main vehicles for delivering settled housing going forward, how has this been assessed against wider LA affordability/ pressures to match fund and lack of affordable housing in the market to purchase?

- The LAHF grant rate per property is calculated relative to local property prices and therefore should reflect the cost of housing within the local authority. The programme

February 2025

is designed to fund only part of the property (accounting for future income) as is the case for similar programmes like the Affordable Homes Programme.

Q: With LAHF 3, has MHCLG reviewed the size mix of properties being asked for, relative to what the actual need is?

- In developing plans for future settled accommodation for the cohort, we are and will continue to take into account all the lessons learned from Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) delivery to date and work with local authorities in order to ensure that any housing delivered reflects the needs of the cohort.
- In the recent LAHF 3 EOI process, we invited LAs to indicate if they would be interested in delivery of very large homes. We will be contacting the LAs who expressed interest shortly and have prioritised within that EOIs that offered larger properties as we know that is where the need is most acute for Afghan families.

Q: You didn't use some of the previous LAHF properties – will this be any different?

- All Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) rounds are now available to all Afghan arrivals regardless of which scheme they arrived under, which will maximise our ability centrally and locally to match properties to families. We have already seen an increase in the uptake of properties.

Communications

Q: How quickly are we likely to find out if we are having hotels stood up in our area?

- Support and assistance from local authorities is important for the success of HMG's Afghan resettlement efforts; where possible we will involve LAs in the decision-making process to stand up hotels used as transitional accommodation and help you understand funding arrangements. LAs will also be invited to attend hotel visits where possible to ensure involvement throughout the procurement process. It is our expectation that all local authorities will play their part in this important endeavour to ensure an equitable share across the UK.

Q: Is communication from the Home Office to local authorities expected to improve?

- We will continue to utilise existing engagement forums with local authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships and share more information as plans develop and soon as we are able to do so. We value any feedback from local authorities on ways to improve our engagement.

Q: How will you be communicating with local authorities going forwards?

- We are committed to working with local government as we implement these changes. We will continue to speak with you directly via dedicated engagement fora including regular webinars, the RLAN meetings and other senior ministerial and local government fora.