



Home Office



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon **Shabana Mahmood MP**
Home Secretary

Rt Hon **Steve Reed OBE MP**
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities &
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Homeless Link

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10 December 2025

Dear Rick, Bridget, and all co-signatories

Thank you for your letter regarding asylum move on. As you are aware, the Government's pilot scheme to extend the move on period for those in receipt of a positive asylum decision from 28 days to 56 days was introduced in December 2024 and due to run until June 2025. It was then extended for a further 6 months with its current intended end being December 2025.

The Government recognises the homelessness risks that can face newly granted refugees transitioning from asylum accommodation, and we value the work of frontline organisations in raising these concerns. We have inherited huge pressures in the asylum system and are working to make sure individuals have the support they need following a positive asylum decision and to help local authorities better plan their assistance as individuals transition into their new communities.

The decision on 1 September to pause the 56 day move on period pilot for single adults in receipt of a positive asylum decision, with the exception of individuals who are pregnant, over the age of 65 or have a known/evidenced disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, has not been taken lightly. It was a necessary decision to ensure that the asylum system continues to run efficiently, and to enable us to continue taking action both to reduce the overall number of asylum hotels in different communities, and the number of people staying in them. We continue to identify ways in which we can support newly recognised refugees during the move on period and to mitigate the risk of homelessness. We recognise this has been challenging for partners, and we are working closely with local authorities and the voluntary sector to mitigate pressures.

The Government remains committed to understanding the impact of the move on pilot through the full evaluation process. The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and RSM have been contracted to undertake an evaluation on behalf of the Home Office on the original pilot extension of the move on period to 56 days, the provision of liaison officers to support those granted asylum, and the provision of £2.8m recognition payment distributed to a limited number of local authorities most impacted by increased decision-making.

Evidence from the evaluation will inform Government decisions around whether to make any changes to the move on period, future funding and resource deployment. It is important that we take our time to do this, considering overall net costs to taxpayers and impact on the accommodation estate, before making a decision on longer term policy.

We recognise the number of individuals in the system and the increase in the number of decisions being made is adding pressure onto local authorities and voluntary sector organisations. We are working closely together and have been regularly engaging with local authorities to ensure they are supported.

We have placed Asylum Move On Liaison Officers (AMLOs) in regions across the United Kingdom and that continues to expand. We are sharing more cross-cohort, place-based data with our partners.

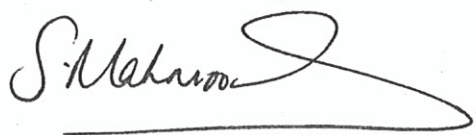
We are also investing over £1 billion in homelessness and rough sleeping services this year (2025/26), a £316 million increase on the previous year to prevent rises in the number of families in temporary accommodation and help to prevent rough sleeping. The Spending Review protects this record level of investment to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping for the next three years and provides £100 million, including from the Transformation Fund, to fund increased homelessness prevention activity by local authorities.

The Government recognises and values the vital contribution of voluntary, community and faith organisations in supporting people at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping. Your organisations are key partners in the delivery of homelessness services and in the development of the upcoming cross-government Homelessness Strategy. Through the Voluntary, Community and Frontline Sector Grant, delivered in partnership with sector experts including Homeless Link, Shelter and Housing Justice, we are supporting the sector to increase its capacity, foster strong local partnerships, and deliver specialist advice and support to those in need.

The Government closely monitors the impact of all our policies, including the move on period, on the number and occupancy of asylum hotels, the overall costs of the asylum accommodation estate, the wider effect on local communities, and any pressures placed on local authorities and public amenities. We remain committed to working closely with local authority and voluntary sector partners to identify improvements and make efficiencies in supporting newly recognised refugees to move on from asylum accommodation.

We welcome continued engagement with all partners, including the voluntary and community sector, to ensure our policies are informed by those on the frontline and to work together towards ending homelessness and rough sleeping.

Yours sincerely,



RT HON SHABANA MAHMOOD MP
Home Secretary



RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities &
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