



Home Office

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Dear Assembly Members,

Thank you for your joint letter of 17 January to the Home Secretary about the move on process for asylum seekers. I am replying as the Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border.

Following the service of an asylum decision, an individual continues to be an asylum seeker for the purpose of asylum support until the end of the relevant prescribed period, also known as the 'grace period' or 'move on period'. This period is 28 calendar days from when an individual is notified of a decision to accept their asylum claim and grant them leave. As such, the policy has always been that the 28-day eligibility period starts from when an individual is notified of their asylum decision. However, operationally, the period has been linked to when a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) is issued.

Individuals are notified of the prescribed period in their grant letter issued by the Home Office. It is vital that individuals are taking note of this important point and acting swiftly upon receipt of the letter. Confirmation of the exact date an individual's support and accommodation is due to end will be issued in a separate 'notice to quit' (NTQ) or 'notice to vacate' (NTV) letter from their accommodation provider. This will either be at least seven days from when the notice is issued, or the date on which the 28-day grace period comes to an end, whichever is the longest in date. An NTQ will only be issued once a person has been issued a BRP. An individual's support and accommodation will not end unless they have been issued with a BRP and an NTQ. Where this is not the case, Migrant Help can be contacted to request support is maintained or reinstated.

There are no plans to extend the move on period beyond the 28-day period set out in legislation. Increasing the move on period would exacerbate existing pressures on the asylum estate and compromise efforts to provide suitable, safe accommodation for eligible asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their claim.

The Home Office continues to identify and make efficiencies in supporting newly recognised refugees integrate into society before their support is discontinued, to mitigate the risk of homelessness. Some of these initiatives are detailed below.

Individuals should make plans to move on from asylum support as soon as they are served their asylum decision, regardless of when their BRP or NTQ is issued. The Home Office is working to ensure that individuals are offered support from Migrant Help, or their partner organisation, when they receive a decision on their asylum claim. This support includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. The Home Office has also developed further communications and infographics to outline the next steps for asylum seekers to supplement Migrant Help support. These will be displayed in both providers' properties, as well as within local communities in the coming weeks.

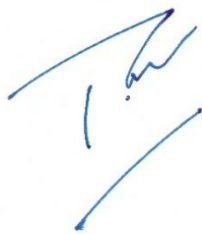
The Home Office is working closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and has been regularly engaging with local authorities to ensure they are supported as well. The Home Office recognises the number of individuals in the system and the clearance of the asylum backlog is adding pressure on to local authorities and their housing allocation capacity, because of individuals presenting as homeless.

There are also improvements in train to ensure local authorities receive early notification of those being granted and leaving Home Office accommodation (dispersed and contingency) and supporting asylum seekers through the move on process, following a positive decision. Following notification of a service of decision, accommodation providers will notify local authorities within two working days. The Home Office is also working with accommodation providers to ensure that this is applied consistently and in a timely manner across all areas. The Home Office has also shared relevant data in the form of heatmaps to allow effective planning, which has been central to the plans to collaborate with local authorities on the backlog clearance and will continue to provide relevant and updated data to allow effective planning in collaboration with local authorities.

The Home Office is committed to working with local authorities to support the transition of newly recognised refugees from asylum support. We will continue to keep local authorities updated via the regular engagement forums and will write out with any further key developments.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', is positioned above the printed name.

**Tom Pursglove MP**  
**Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border**