



UK Visas  
& Immigration

Director,  
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Shanthi Gunsekera  
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City Hall  
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12 January 2017

Dear Shanthi

### **London SMP Funding allocation**

Firstly, may I express my gratitude for the support and assistance that the Strategic Migration Partnership in London have offered to date in the support and accommodation of refugees and asylum seekers. I am very grateful for the leadership you and others have shown in this endeavour and am sure that London will continue to make a vital contribution in ensuring that the UK continues its proud history of providing protection to those who need it.

As you are aware, the number of schemes in operation to support the different groups has expanded in the last years. This has resulted in many local authorities raising concerns about the seemingly confusing and complex set of competing demands being made of them to participate in these schemes. To address this, and provide a more cohesive set of arrangements, we have undertaken a restructure within UK Visas and Immigration. I have been appointed the Director for Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration and will have lead responsibility for all Home Office services supporting refugees and asylum seekers dispersed in the UK.

I hope that you will benefit from a more joined up approach to the work we ask you to undertake, but I would also ask that your RSMP plays its part in making things simpler for local authorities to understand and participate in the different initiatives. As a first step in this regard, I am please to be able to confirm the total funding package available to you for the forthcoming financial year.

Subject to the usual confirmation of having met the respective grant requirements, the following funds will be available:

- £64,000.00 for SMP enabling grant funding

As you know, additional funding of up to £60,000 for 2016/7 is also available for participation in the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and £60,000 for 2016/7 participation in the Syrian Refugee Programme (inclusive of the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme) and my teams are in contact with London authorities and other groups about bids for coordination of this work and their associated funds.

As we have discussed previously, my teams are currently organising events to implement a more thorough review of the activities of all migration partnerships in 2016/7. In keeping with the formal enabling grant agreements, this annual review will continue to cover the standard requirements, and will look at accounting arrangements to ensure that financial malpractice issues are avoided. Following Wike Wells recent move, I will be your nominated Home Office lead officer in these matters will be in touch separately to discuss planning and agree a suitable program of work for 2017/8. However this grant management review will also involve workshop events that will apply an Appreciative Inquiry methodology, so that all partners can express what is working well and what opportunities there are for improvement for the future.

Taken together, I hope that these commitments give the SMP the certainty you need to plan for the future and continue to assist the Home Office and local authorities achieve a fairer distribution of caring responsibilities across the country.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Morrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Morrison  
Director, Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration,