

Press release: 8,500 refugees arrive on the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

The latest [quarterly Home Office migration statistics](#), which were published on Thursday (24 August) show that over 1,200 refugees arrived through the scheme in the second quarter of 2017, meaning over a third of the 20,000 refugees the UK government pledged to resettle by 2020 are already in the UK. Approximately half of those who have arrived under the scheme are children.

Today's figures also show Syrian refugees have been housed by more than 200 local authorities across the United Kingdom. The government continues to work with councils and devolved administrations to ensure placements are available as more vulnerable people arrive.

Immigration Minister Brandon Lewis said:

I'm delighted with the significant progress we have made with the VPR scheme. Over 8,500 people have been resettled and more are arriving every month.

We will continue to work with local authorities and the UNHCR, whose hard work so far has made sure that the scheme is a success, to provide those who have been displaced by conflict with a safe environment and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

In September 2015, the government pledged to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria to neighbouring countries by 2020. Last month, the scheme was expanded to include refugees of all nationalities. Additionally 3,000 children and adults will be resettled from the Middle East and North Africa through our Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Additionally, in July the government announced £1 million funding to help communities support refugees through the Community Sponsorship scheme. The scheme has been running for a year and 53 refugees have been welcomed by 10 community groups across the UK.

The government has also already pledged £10m in English language funding to help Syrian families improve their English language skills. This is vital to help those coming to the UK find work, gain independence and give back to the communities that have welcomed them.

These resettlement schemes are only one of the ways the government is supporting vulnerable children and adults who have fled danger and conflict.

The UK government remains the second largest donor in humanitarian assistance and has pledged £2.46 billion in aid to Syria and the neighbouring countries.

The UK has also provided humanitarian support in response to the Mediterranean migration crisis of more than £100 million since October 2015. This includes providing winter clothing, hygiene kits and emergency medical care for those rescued at sea as well as protection for women and girls at risk of being trafficked.

[News story: FCO and DFID statement on the Advisory Commission Report on Rakhine State](#)

Foreign Office Minister for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field said:

The UK welcomes the report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. We stand ready to support the Burmese government in implementing the report's recommendations, to address the long-term issues in Rakhine and deliver for all communities.

We have received reports of attacks by a Rohingya insurgency group on Burmese security forces. We strongly condemn all violence in Rakhine State. We urge all parties in Rakhine to show restraint and de-escalate tensions.

International Development Minister Alistair Burt said:

The British Government is deeply concerned following reports of attacks overnight in Rakhine and condemns all violence and loss of life. The UK has long been one of the biggest supporters of Burma, including in Rakhine State. Since 2012, we have provided over £30 million in humanitarian assistance, including food and sanitation for over 126,000 people.

We welcome yesterday's Rakhine Advisory Commission report and stand ready to support the Burmese Government to implement its recommendations, while continuing to call for freedom of movement and equal access to basic services in Rakhine for all communities.

Further information

[Press release: Government completes large-scale fire safety testing programme](#)

The final wall cladding combination has passed and meets current Building Regulations guidance.

The final wall cladding combination tested as part of the government's series of large-scale fire safety tests has passed and meets current Building Regulations guidance.

This [final test](#) was of a wall cladding system consisting of Aluminium Composite material (ACM) cladding with a limited combustibility filler (category 1 in screening tests) with stone wool insulation.

The [government's expert panel advises](#) that the results show that this combination of materials can be compliant when installed and maintained properly. While government has not been informed of any tall buildings over 18 metres in England using this particular combination of materials in their wall system, it could offer a possible solution for some buildings with other cladding systems which have been identified as a fire hazard through previous large-scale tests.

The clear advice from the expert panel remains that building owners need to continue to take professional advice regarding remedial work that takes into account the specific circumstances of their building.

The purpose of this testing programme is to develop a better understanding of how different types of cladding panels behave with different types of insulation in a fire. This is so building owners and their professional advisors can make informed decisions. Results of all 7 large-scale tests are [available](#) and government will shortly publish consolidated advice to landlords based on all the 7 tests.

The government announced an [independent review of building regulations and fire safety](#) on 28 July 2017. This forward-looking review will examine the regulatory system around the design, construction and on-going management of buildings in relation to fire safety as well as related compliance and enforcement issues.

[News story: Disclosure and Barring Service is introducing new online services](#)

In the coming months, we'll be introducing several new digital services for you to use. We know that you'd like more online services, which will improve our processing times and help you manage your information quickly and easily.

Barring

In early September, our new barring referral system will be available. Employers and organisations will be able to submit barring referrals online and:

- register to create an online account with DBS
- manage one or several barring referrals online
- share information with DBS through a secure government platform

In addition, people who have been referred to DBS will be able to set up an account to communicate confidentially with us about their case.

Basic criminal record checks

If you live or work in England or Wales you'll be able to apply online for a basic criminal record check through DBS from January 2018. As part of the online application you'll need to prove your identity through GOV.UK Verify.

These checks are currently managed by Disclosure Scotland, who'll continue to process them for anyone living or working in Scotland.

A basic criminal record check shows unspent convictions. Anyone can apply for basic criminal record checks. Many employers also use them as part of the recruitment processes. If you're self-employed you can also apply for a basic check.

Standard and enhanced criminal record checks

Also in 2018 we will be introducing online standard and enhanced checks for employers and organisations.

The system will allow you to:

- register to create an online account with DBS
- manage DBS check applications online
- track the progress of DBS applications online and do status checks

These checks are needed for certain roles, especially when working with children and vulnerable adults. We'll continue to keep you updated about DBS

online services over the coming months. Use our eligibility tool to find out which criminal record check is right for you.

GOV.UK email alerts

You can [sign up for GOV.UK alerts](#), which will notify you of any updates to our web content.

You'll be asked for an email address to create a subscription, and can choose how often you'd like to be alerted when DBS publishes web updates.

[News story: Licence stripped from holiday sickness firm](#)

Intelligence gathered by the Claims Management Regulator (CMR) officers revealed that Lancashire based Allsure Ltd had encouraged holiday-goers to fabricate or embellish symptoms of gastric illness to get compensation. Further evidence showed the firm had used deceptive sales scripts – exaggerating expected pay-outs to entice consumers.

This conduct has led to the firm's licence being cancelled. This means that it can no longer offer regulated claims management services to new or existing clients.

Kevin Rousell, Head of the Claims Management Regulator said:

We will take firm action against claims businesses which engage in serious misconduct.

Seeking to encourage false claims will not be tolerated.

CMR, based at the Ministry of Justice, regulates companies that offer to help people claim compensation for issues such as personal injury and mis-sold financial products.

The action taken against Allsure Ltd is the latest in a series of moves by government to crackdown on fake sickness claims, following concerns from the travel industry of a surge in insurance claims for gastric illnesses like food poisoning being brought by British holidaymakers.

In July ministers stepped in to reduce cash incentives in bringing spurious claims against package holiday tour operators. Under these proposals tour operators would pay a prescribed sum depending on the value of the claim, making the cost of defending a claim predictable.

Notes

- during an audit, CMR identified potential systematic failings in Allsure Ltd's sales scripts and call recordings
- following an investigation which commenced in February, Allsure Ltd was found to have breached the conduct rules when making marketing calls to consumer for holiday sickness claims by:
 - making false or unsubstantiated claims and misleading statements about the amounts due to consumers
 - trying to coach consumers in providing the answers needed to meet the criteria for making a claim
- Allsure Ltd is based in Preston, Lancashire and has been operating in the personal injury claims sector since 22 April 2014.
- [information on the cancellation](#) is available on the Justice website
- the business can appeal the cancellation of their authorisation, and they have 28 days to make their representations to the First-Tier Tribunal.
- in July ministers announced a [crackdown](#) on fake holiday sickness claims
- further information on the action CMR is taking to tackle misconduct in holiday sickness claims can be found in the [CMR quarterly enforcement update](#)