

Government strikes deal to remove more Albanian prisoners

Press release

More Albanian criminals will be removed from the UK and transferred from prisons in England and Wales after Ministers signed a new agreement today (Monday 26 July).



- Deal agreed to remove more Albanian offenders from the UK
- There will be no early release after transfer, as prisoners will serve their full sentence in Albania
- Removed prisoners will be barred from ever returning to UK
- Albania will pay the costs of housing prisoners transferred from Britain

The deal means more offenders can be sent back to serve their full sentence in Albania, with victims assured they will still serve the full sentence imposed on them by a British judge.

Taxpayers will no longer have to pay to accommodate these offenders, and those transferred will be barred from returning to Britain, giving further peace of mind to victims.

UK and Albanian justice Ministers, Chris Philp and Etilda Gjonaj, formally approved the Prisoner Transfer Agreement in London this morning. The agreement works both ways and includes provisions for British criminals in Albanian jails to be returned to the UK.

Albanian nationals currently represent the highest percentage of foreign nationals in custody with more than 1,500 in prison in England and Wales – around 10% of overseas criminals in jail. The UK does not collect statistics on British prisoners in overseas jails, but the number imprisoned in Albania is thought to be extremely low.

Minister for Immigration Compliance and Justice, Chris Philp, said:

We are committed to removing foreign criminals who have abused our hospitality and inflicted misery on our communities.

Someone who commits a serious crime in the UK should be barred from returning so that the taxpayer no longer has to pay for them and victims can be confident justice has been done.

Since January 2019, the Government has removed 7,985 foreign national offenders from our prisons, immigration removal centres and the community.

The deal builds on an earlier agreement and means that offenders must spend at least the same amount of time in custody as they were sentenced to by a judge in the UK.

It also clarifies that prisoners can be transferred without their consent and outlines the information that receiving states need in an application – speeding up the process.

Notes to editors:

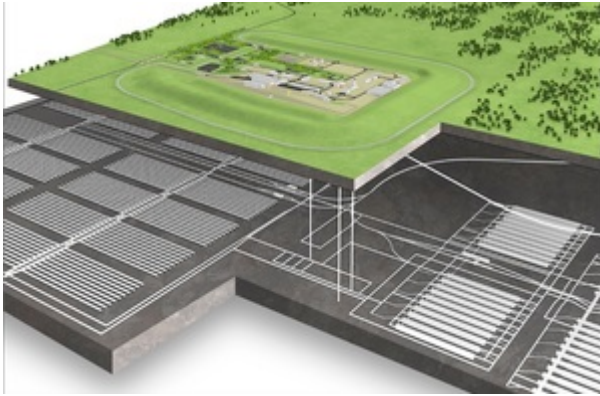
- The Agreement must be ratified by each state. The UK does not require new legislation and the Government hopes transfers will begin from the autumn.
- The cost of removing Foreign National offenders falls to the transferring state, while the remaining period of detention falls to the receiving state.
- Offenders are barred from returning to the UK through Home Office deportation orders.

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[RWM in early discussions with Lincolnshire County Council about GDF](#)

News story

GDF process requires community consent



Illustrative example of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

RWM is in early-stage discussions with Lincolnshire County Council to see if they are interested in forming or joining a local Working Group as part of a national project to find a location for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

A Working Group would begin discussions about the potential for hosting a deep geological facility for the safe and secure disposal of radioactive waste. The process to find a suitable GDF site requires a community to give its clear consent.

A GDF is a highly engineered facility constructed deep underground and will consist of a series of vaults and tunnels where radioactive waste can be disposed of safely, securely and permanently.

Steve Reece, Head of Siting at Radioactive Waste Management, said:

Radioactive Waste Management is in early discussions with Lincolnshire County Council, to see if they are interested in joining a local Working Group. Absolutely no decisions have been taken at this stage.

Two areas in Cumbria have already started this process by forming Working Groups and this could be an important further step for a significant national infrastructure project to find a location for a GDF – that's an underground facility designed to safely and securely dispose of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste.

This is an enormous infrastructure project, worth billions of pounds – one that would bring thousands of jobs for multiple generations as well as the significant investment needed for supporting infrastructure in the area where a GDF is built.

A GDF would be built up to 1,000 metres in the rock deep underground and it would contain the waste safely and isolate it over the very long term, until the radioactivity naturally decays and no longer poses a hazard to people or the environment.

In our discussions with Lincolnshire County Council the former Theddlethorpe gas terminal has been identified as a possible site

of interest, and in particular the geology deep below the seabed, a few miles off the coast, as one potential location. We would like to engage with the local community to hear their thoughts and views. And we recognise that there could be other potential locations for surface facilities that could lead out to the same geology deep beneath the seabed.

At this very early stage of the process, we're explaining the [Working With Communities](#) approach (the government's policy) and answering the council's questions so that they can see how the siting process could work.

The opportunity remains open for individuals and organisations in England and Wales to engage in discussions with RWM – without any commitment.

The process to find a suitable GDF site ultimately requires a community to give clear consent through a process called a Test of Public Support – this project is totally unique in that the local community will have the final say.

Working Groups, which will engage with local people, will be announced as they are formed. Two GDF Working Groups have already been formed in Cumbria.

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[Boost for Welsh media industry with £22.2m innovation funding](#)

It is hoped 2,000 new jobs will be created in the Cardiff area with significant funding as part of the UK Government's Innovation Strategy.

[Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse](#)

- 12 local areas to share £3.7 million to fund safe housing pilot for vulnerable rough sleepers
- The Respite Rooms Trial Programme will create 140 bed spaces and support

- up to 1,100 people at risk of sleeping rough
- Victims to receive specialist support alongside accommodation

Rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse will be provided with safe housing as part of a new pilot programme, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Eddie Hughes announced today (26 July 2021).

The Respite Rooms Trial Programme – first announced by the Chancellor in the Budget – will see 12 local areas across England share £3.7 million to fund accommodation and expert support for victims of violence and abuse.

Under this pioneering initiative, safe housing will be offered to victims of domestic abuse, rape or sexual assault, sex workers, victims of exploitation, or violence who are sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping.

The funding will create a total of 140 bed spaces and support an estimated 1,100 people over a 12 month trial period.

The programme will provide a single gender spaces for victims alongside specialist support from homelessness and domestic abuse and violence against women and girls charities.

This will also include support those with multiple and complex needs such as substance misuse, migrant victims of abuse, and victims of sexual trafficking.

As part of the programme, victims will be offered advice and support to access suitable more permanent safe accommodation.

Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Eddie Hughes MP said:

Survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence or physical violence need a safe place of refuge to escape these crimes and rebuild their lives.

These respite rooms will provide a safe space and ensure vulnerable people at risk of sleeping rough are supported in safe housing with expert advice and counselling.

This programme is part of the government's much wider action to help the most vulnerable in our communities, with £750 million investment this year to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

The 12 areas across England that will receive funding under the trial programme are: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Birmingham, Bristol, Camden, Hastings and East Sussex, Exeter, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth and Westminster.

Today's announcement is part of the government's comprehensive plans to tackle domestic abuse and support victims of sexual violence and abuse, and to support rough sleepers off the streets for good.

Under the government's ground-breaking Domestic Abuse Act 2021, councils will be required to provide life-saving support in safe accommodation for domestic abuse victims and their children who require it, backed by £125 million of government funding.

This funding is part of the long-term strategy to provide comprehensive support to victims, and in addition to £40 million funding boost for victim support services announced earlier this year, as well as a cross-government victims strategy that works better for survivors.

A full breakdown of the allocations under the respite rooms trial programme is below:

- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole: £357,185
- Birmingham: £355,404
- Bristol: £350,000
- Camden: £491,388
- Hastings: £310,650
- Exeter: £266,803
- Leicester: £334,956
- Liverpool: £211,462
- Manchester: £140,215
- Nottingham: £349,407
- Portsmouth: £117,991
- Westminster: £451,210

The programme is aimed at supporting rough sleepers or those at risk of sleeping rough who have experienced the following:

- domestic abuse
- sexual assault
- rape
- physical assault
- stalking/harassment
- exploitation by other rough sleepers
- sex work

[Guidance: CHT further information for families](#)

Information for parents about congenital hypothyroidism (CHT) following a baby's positive screening test result.