



Home Office

Baroness Williams

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

BY EMAIL ONLY
Baroness Jolly and Baroness Symons
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

10 November 2021

Dear Judith and Elizabeth,

I write on the issue of Afghan interpreters further to the commitment I made on the House floor on 27 Oct 2021 to answer the following questions:

1. The number of Afghan interpreters brought to the UK via the Afghan Relocations & Assistance Policy who are currently without permanent accommodation; and
2. The number of Afghan interpreters who worked for the UK and are still in Afghanistan.

Interpreters under ARAP without permanent accommodation

As background to the first question, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme was implemented in response to the changing situation in Afghanistan, and offers relocation or assistance to Afghan citizens employed locally in Afghanistan and assessed to be at serious risk as a result of their work. This scheme was launched on 1 April 2021.

A data collection exercise has been ongoing within bridging accommodation. This was primarily focussed on the needs of those Afghan citizens under our care and this information is in the process of being refined. We will provide more information via the quarterly statistical release in due course, via this link [Asylum and resettlement datasets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets).

We are working closely with local authorities across the UK to match families into permanent accommodation and on the provision of integration support, funded by the Home Office.

Afghan interpreters still in Afghanistan

Despite our best efforts during the evacuation, a number of people eligible for ARAP are, regrettably, still in Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defence is unable to confirm the number of Afghan interpreters currently still in Afghanistan or in third countries. This is due to the rate of applications being processed and the dynamic security situation in Afghanistan

The ARAP scheme will remain open indefinitely – applications can be made from any country, and the UK Government will work with international partners to enable those with a right to leave Afghanistan to do so safely. Our commitment to those who are eligible under the ARAP is not time limited and will endure.

We are working to keep routes open for all those eligible people to come to the UK - British nationals and Afghans alike - who did not manage to leave Afghanistan before the evacuation operation ended. Furthermore, we have created a new Joint Afghanistan Casework Unit, staffed jointly by officials from the FCDO, Home Office and Ministry of Defence to help them to reach the UK.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', written in a cursive style.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford
Minister of State**