



Home Office

Lord Cormack  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

The Lord Murray of Blidworth  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for Migration and Borders

2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

26 June 2023

Dear Lord Cormack,

## **ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS COMMITTEE STAGE**

I am writing to follow up the debate in the Lords on amendment 133 (Official Report, 14 June 2023, column 2038) and the asylum backlog figures.

The Prime Minister pledged to clear the backlog of the 92,601 initial asylum decisions relating to claims made before 28 June 2022 (“legacy claims”) by the end of 2023. One way in which we will achieve that is via the Streamlined Asylum Process which is centred around accelerating the processing of manifestly well-founded asylum claims. Another way in which we will achieve this is by grouping asylum claims by cohorts. This means grouping asylum claimants and prioritising claims based on, for example, the type or volume of claims from a particular nationality, grant rate, compliance rate and those on asylum support rate. This process seeks to conclude, more efficiently, outstanding asylum claims made before 28 June 2022 by the end of the year. This will allow decisions to be assessed in a more efficient manner. This will be achieved by:

- Increasing decision-making experience: Decision-makers will become more familiar with countries and claim types, allowing them to be as productive as possible.
- Questionnaires: Gathering relevant information regarding an individual’s claim as quickly as possible to support efficient decision-making.
- Targeted and shorter Interviews: Based on the responses to the questionnaire, where interviews are still required, they will be conducted efficiently, covering the relevant areas in order to make a decision.
- From April 2023, Children’s legacy children’s claims from nationals of Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria and Vietnam are considered through the

Streamlined Asylum Process. This process will enable cases to be progressed more quickly and clear the backlog of outstanding initial asylum decisions.

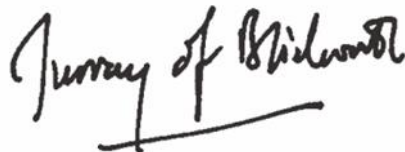
Provisional data published in the '[Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Bill release](#)' show the initial decision legacy asylum backlog has fallen by over 17,000 from the end of November 2022 to the end of May 2023. Finalised data for the legacy backlog as at the end of June is scheduled to be published in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)' on 24 August.

For applications made before 28 June 2022 only (legacy backlog), between 28 June 2022 and 31 March 2023, 14,635 have received a decision, of which 76% received a grant of protection or other leave.

I have also linked to the National Statistics release from 25 May 2023 should it be helpful: [How many people do we grant protection to? - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

I am copying this letter to Lord Coaker, Baroness Ludford, Lord Kerr of Kinlochard, Lord Carlile of Berriew, the Bishop of Durham, Baroness Lister, Baroness Stowell of Beeston, Baroness Meacher, Lord Davies of Gower, Baroness Lawlor, Baroness Hamwee, Baroness Neuberger, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede and Lord Paddick. I will also place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray of Blidworth', with a horizontal line underneath.

**The Lord Murray of Blidworth  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for Migration and Borders**