



Ministry  
of Defence

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MSU/4/4/1/12

13 January 2025

Dear Ben,

Thank you for raising an important question during Defence Oral Questions of 6 January 2025, regarding the use of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) for relocated Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) applicants and their families. While my colleague the Minister for Veterans and People answered in the chamber, I am responding to you as the ARAP scheme falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

The Ministry of Defence remains committed to deliver on our moral obligations to support those courageous Afghans who worked with and alongside our UK Armed Forces. They are indeed our friends and allies and deserving of our efforts to ensure that they are appropriately supported by the ARAP scheme to begin their new lives in the safety of the UK. I truly welcome your, and the nation's, advocacy to support those who have supported us, often at great personal risk.

Regarding your first question on the number of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties being used to house Afghan eligible-principals and their families, the MOD currently has 375 transitional SFA properties housing ARAP families temporarily, and 597 settled SFA properties housing ARAP families for a period of up to three years. The properties are based across the UK.

Regarding your second question on what happens to Afghan families once their three-year eligibility for SFA has elapsed, Afghan families are provided with integration support during their three-year tenancy. This is funded by the Home Office and includes help to learn English and find work. By the end of the three-year point, families should become self-sufficient and well-equipped to source their own accommodation or seek assistance from their Local Authority. In exceptional circumstances, the MOD will consider if an extension to the lease is possible, reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Ben Obese-Jecty MP  
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You may also recall that the Secretary of State for Defence made a Parliamentary announcement on the new Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP) on 18 December 2024. The ARP is a single cross-Government delivery programme, that will improve efficiency, value for money and outcomes across Afghan Resettlement.

This means that the Government will no longer differentiate between arrivals on different Afghan resettlement schemes with complex funding packages and different support offers. For example, transitional accommodation will continue to be a mixture of serviced accommodation and hotels, alongside a reduced use of the Defence Estate. From the spring, all Afghan arrivals will be supported to source their own settled accommodation via the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) *'Find Your Own Accommodation'* pathway. Please be assured that this Government will provide further updates on the ARP in the near future.

I trust that my response answers your questions. Thank you again for your continued support and advocacy of the ARAP scheme and our applicants. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

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

**LUKE POLLARD MP**