



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Ministry
of Defence



Home Office

To all local authority chief executives and leaders in England, Scotland and Wales

Dear All,

AFGHAN LES RELOCATION SCHEME ACCELERATION

We are writing to seek your support in the accelerated relocation of locally employed staff (LES) who have been supporting the UK in Afghanistan.

As many of you will know, the Government has been running a scheme to relocate Afghan former LES to the UK since 2013, in recognition of the fact that they are at increased risk of intimidation, having worked side by side with our armed forces and officials. For example, many of those who are eligible under the scheme have worked as military interpreters.

Under our new relocation policy launched at the beginning of April, we assess that around 1000 Afghan LES and their families may be eligible to apply for 5 years 'Leave to Enter the UK' with a pathway to resettlement thereafter.

Following the announcement that NATO military forces will withdraw from Afghanistan, we intend to accelerate the pace of relocations under the scheme. The precise number of people, and the timing of their relocation to the UK, will depend on a number of factors, including the wishes of the families themselves. For planning purposes, we believe we should be prepared to relocate up to 600 families over the summer, with the first of the relocations beginning in the middle of June. However, we should emphasise that the scheme has no cut-off date, and we will continue to fulfil our obligations to all those who are eligible under it, whenever they decide to apply.

A collaborative, cross-government approach is being taken to support the effective integration of all those LES who choose to come to the UK, including engagement with Local Authorities and each of the 11 Strategic Migration Partnerships across the UK.

The Home Office provides a funding package to support local authorities who come forward to offer support to welcome LES arrivals and enable them to deliver integration support for families which includes a package of advice and assistance covering employment, welfare benefits, access to health and education. This existing offer will be enhanced through additional central government integration support, including an online welcome pack for all LES new arrivals and local engagement networks for participating local authorities, to share information and resources. More information is contained in the attached factsheet.

Providing a safe haven to these individuals and their families is a significant priority for both this Government and the United Kingdom. I am therefore extremely grateful for your

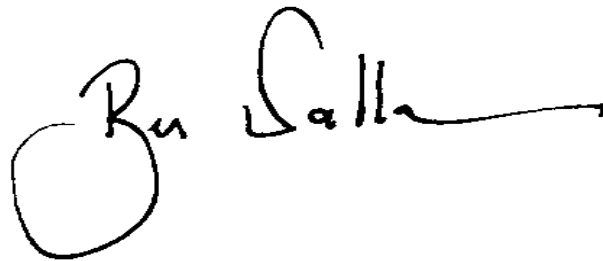
support and assistance as we fulfil our moral obligation to support those who have served this country.

Handwritten signature of Robert Jenrick in black ink, with a horizontal line underneath.

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOUSING,
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

Handwritten signature of Priti Patel in blue ink.

**RT HON PRITI PATEL
HOME SECRETARY**

Handwritten signature of Ben Wallace in black ink.

**THE RT HON BEN WALLACE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE**