



Home Office

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration

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

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear George

Thank you for your email of 26 June to the Home Secretary on behalf of a number of your constituents about immigration enforcement. I am replying as the Minister of State for Immigration.

The UK has a proud tradition of providing protection to people who genuinely need it, and we have obligations under international law in terms of how we receive asylum seekers and consider their claims. But we are committed to ensuring we have an immigration system that is fair to British citizens and legitimate migrants, tough on those who abuse the system or flout the law, and makes sure that people come to the UK for the right reasons – to work hard and contribute to our economy and society. We are determined to ensure that the UK does not become a favoured destination for immigration offenders or opportunistic asylum claims.

The Home Office encourages people with no right to be here to leave the country voluntarily and will offer help for them to do this. Where they fail to leave, the Home Office will consider enforcing their departure. The Home Office is unable to remove individuals where there are legal barriers to removal, such as an asylum claim (which must first be considered and concluded).

We constantly review our priorities and the way we use our resources, but we consider that we have established a practical balance that works in the best interests of the taxpayer, our judicial system, benefits and service providers and local communities.

Yours sincerely
Caroline

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