



## Home Office

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### BY EMAIL ONLY

17 July 2023

Dear Ms Lorenz,

I am writing to inform you that the Home Office has carried out an interim review of the level of financial allowances provided to support destitute asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers under sections 95 and 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”).

From 17 July, the standard weekly level of the allowance increased from £45 to £47.39 on an interim basis for each supported person (i.e., the individual supported under section 95 or section 4(2) of the 1999 Act and any dependants in their household) in self-catered accommodation. For those in catered accommodation, the standard weekly level of the allowance proportionally increased from £9.10 to £9.58 for each supported person on an interim basis. This letter provides the reasons for those changes.

### Background

The UK has a statutory responsibility to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers and some classes of failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute to cover their essential living needs.

The Home Office annually reviews the level of the asylum support rate to assess the correct level of financial support that should be provided to meet essential living needs. In December 2022, we increased the support rates to £45 and £9.10 on the basis of September 2022 CPI being 10.1%. Since January 2023, we have been working on this year’s review which is due to conclude later this year.

However, in the interim, prices have continued to rise at a high rate and evidence (which consists of the CPI rate and other inflation reporting) has shown that there has been a marked increase in the costs of essential living items. For the seven months from September 2022 to April 2023, the CPI shows prices have risen by a further 5.3%<sup>1</sup>. This will impact on the ability for supported asylum seekers to meet their essential living needs, which is why we have increased the rate in line with CPI.

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<sup>1</sup> Table 1 [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

The interim uplift will be provided on top of the usual subsistence rates by a one off payment on Tuesday 18th July for this week only, with the uplifted rates being paid in full from Monday 24th July until further notice.

We will continue to update on progress of the annual review of the asylum support rates and any other support related policies via the NASF Support subgroup.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Elimelech', written in a cursive style.

Dr. M Elimelech  
Deputy Director Asylum and Protection Unit