



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2018-0207, 8 October 2018

Asylum accommodation contracts

By Hannah Wilkins, Alison Pratt

Summary

A debate on Asylum accommodation contracts is scheduled to take place in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 10 October at 2.30pm – 4.00pm. The Member sponsoring the debate is Alex Cunningham MP.

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1. Background

1.1 Introduction

The Home Office contracts out the provision of housing and transport for asylum seekers. Under s95 of the *Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*, housing is provided to asylum seekers and their dependents who prove that they are destitute or are likely to become destitute. Housing under the contracts may be provided through local authorities, private and other accommodation providers.

There are currently six separate regional housing contracts, known as the *Commercial and Operational Managers Procuring Asylum Support Services*, or COMPASS, contracts, with three companies:

Region	Service Provider
Scotland and Northern Ireland	Serco
North West England	Serco
North East England, Yorkshire and the Humber	G4S
Midlands and East of England	G4S
Wales and South West England	Clearel (Clearsprings and Reliance)
London and South East England	Clearel (Clearsprings and Reliance)

The current COMPASS contracts will expire in 2019 and be replaced with the AASC and AIRE contracts

The COMPASS contracts require local authority consent for dispersal accommodation of asylum seekers and the provider is required to consult on chosen properties with the local authority.¹ Not all local authorities have consented to dispersal accommodation for asylum seekers.

Background on the contracts was summarised in a 2014 National Audit Office report (see section 1:2 of this debate pack below):

It [the Home Office] awarded G4S, Serco and Clearel contracts to supply accommodation services, with each awarded a contract to deliver these services in two of the six regions of the UK. The Department aimed to save around £140 million over seven years through the introduction of the new contractual arrangements; in 2012-13, it achieved a saving of £8 million. The new delivery model involves fewer and bigger housing providers than under

¹ Home Affairs Select Committee, [Asylum Accommodation](#), Twelfth Report, 31 January 2017, HC 637, 34

the previous contracts. Only one of the three providers under COMPASS (Clearel) had any previous experience of the asylum housing sector. The contracts became fully operational in all areas by January 2013 following a transition period.²

The COMPASS contracts commenced in 2012 for an initial five-year period and were extended for a further two years in 2017.³

The COMPASS contracts are due to expire in 2019 and a procurement exercise is currently underway. They are to be replaced with the Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract (AASC) and the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Contract (AIRE), which will commence on 1 September 2019. The Minister of State for Immigration Rt Hon Caroline Nokes explained in response to a parliamentary Question:

To continue to meet UKVI's obligation to provide accommodation & support to destitute asylum seekers, the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation (AASST) project has been established to design, develop and procure the future model for asylum accommodation and support, replacing the existing COMPASS arrangements when they expire in Sept 2019.

Since the establishment of the project in the autumn of 2016, there has been extensive engagement with strategic stakeholders, including Strategic Migration Partnerships, Local Authorities and Non-Government Organisations to identify a range of enhancements and improvements to the existing model which have been reflected in the design of the next generation of contracts.

We estimate that there have been over 60 separate stakeholder events or written exercises undertaken since autumn 2016. Details of the feedback provided by individual stakeholders from this engagement could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual correspondence, event minutes and records.⁴

1.2 The COMPASS contracts

The current COMPASS contracts have been the subject of criticism and investigation, with the National Audit Office (NAO), the Home Affairs Select Committee, Local Authorities, MPs and the Third Sector raising concerns with the Home Office.

In 2014 the NAO launched an investigation into the operation of the COMPASS contracts in response to correspondence it received from MPs and individuals across 2012 and 2013 outlining concerns.⁵ The report concluded:

It is clear from our investigation that unresolved issues remain for the delivery of the COMPASS contracts, although they have been operational for almost one year. Transition to the new contracts

² COMPASS contracts for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers, the National Audit Office, HC 880 Session 2013-14, 10 January 2014

³ See, for eg, [PQ HL5942](#)

⁴ PQ 172532 [on asylum housing], 14 September 2018

⁵ COMPASS contracts for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers, the National Audit Office, HC 880 Session 2013-14, 10 January 2014

was challenging. The new providers in particular struggled to establish their supply chains resulting in poor performance, delays and additional costs for the Department. Many of the issues that arose during transition remained unresolved between the Department and the providers and continued to affect provider performance once the contracts became fully operational. Although performance is now improving, providers are still failing to meet some of their KPIs, notably around property standards, and the experience of some service users has suffered. Commercial negotiations are still under way over whether the contracts need to change, what additional costs have been incurred by the Department and what service credits should be applied. Until these issues are resolved it will be difficult for the key parties (the Department, providers and local authorities) to develop the mature relationships needed to deliver the intended savings and an effective service regime.⁶

In December 2016 the then-Minister for Immigration Robert Goodwill made a statement outlining changes to improve the performance of the COMPASS contracts. He said:

There has been considerable interest in the accommodation and support that is provided to asylum seekers. I am committed to ensuring that destitute asylum seekers are accommodated in safe, secure and suitable accommodation and that they are treated with dignity. I have listened carefully to Hon. Members and non-governmental organisations' concerns about the arrangements, including their observations and criticisms of the current contractual arrangements.⁷

On 31 January 2017 the Home Affairs Select Committee published its report on Asylum Accommodation.⁸ The report took evidence from the three COMPASS providers and some sub-contractors, the Local Government Association, organisations representing asylum seekers, and Home Office Ministers, to assess the effectiveness of the contracts. The report made several conclusions and recommendations, stating:

Given the significant problems we have identified, we believe that the COMPASS contracts should have been reviewed sooner, so that they could have been replaced with a better approach when the term of the contracts ended this year. It is disappointing that the Home Office did not do this and as a result has had to extend the existing COMPASS contracts while wider changes to the system are now considered. We recognise, however, that the fundamental changes required to these complex contracts need time to be properly developed and negotiated. In this Report we have made recommendations that look to the long-term future of the asylum system and should be considered as part of the process of putting together a successor to COMPASS. However, many of our recommendations, which would bring real improvements to the service asylum seekers receive, do not require further renegotiation, and should be implemented within six months.⁹

The Home Office responded to the report:

⁶ Ibid, 7.

⁷ [HCWS335](#) [on asylum accommodation] 8 December 2016

⁸ Home Affairs Select Committee, [Asylum Accommodation](#), Twelfth Report, 31 January 2017, HC 637 2016-17

⁹ Above n 4, para 119

Significant improvements have been made to the services delivered through the asylum accommodation and support contracts. As this report acknowledges the standard of accommodation provided to asylum seekers has improved since 2012. Since the Committee commenced and conducted much of its work on this enquiry in the first half of 2016 the Home Office has made a number of improvements to its inspection regime, including through making the service user experience more central in the inspection process. The Home Office has also increased its engagement with the NGO and voluntary sectors to provide more opportunities for those who work with asylum seekers to feedback on how the system is working. Furthermore, in December 2016 the then Immigration Minister announced a number of improvements to the contracts which address many of the concerns raised in this report. Over the course of this year the use of contingency accommodation has dramatically ceased and the number of areas participating in the dispersal scheme has increased. The Home Office is committed to continuing to make improvements to the asylum support system.

A project has been established to design, develop and deliver new arrangements for asylum accommodation and support following the end of the current contracts in 2019. Work to design and develop a new model for asylum accommodation and support has been underway since the autumn of 2016. The Home Office is working with a wide variety of stakeholders, from a range of sectors, including local authorities, Strategic Migration Partnerships and NGOs to develop options for the future system. The aim of this work is to deliver a sustainable, efficient and high quality end-to-end asylum accommodation and support system which works for all parties, and which effectively safeguards the vulnerable.¹⁰

The heads of 14 local authorities wrote a joint letter to the Home Secretary Sajid Javid earlier this year. The Yorkshire Post reported that the letter called on the Home Secretary to “personally intervene to enable the Home Office to get a grip on the asylum system and enable them to work in partnership with, rather than exclude, local authorities”.¹¹

In February 2018 the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration called for evidence on the provision of asylum accommodation. The request calls for ‘evidence of good and bad practice, and in particular of any developments since the publication of the Home Affairs Committee report on asylum accommodation in January 2017’.¹²

¹⁰ [Home Affairs Committee, *Government Response to the Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2016-17*, 10 November 2017 HC551](#)

¹¹ [‘Exclusive: Asylum seeker system in Yorkshire at risk of “catastrophic failure”, region’s leaders warn Sajid Javid’, *The Yorkshire Post*, 18 August 2018](#)

¹² [‘Asylum accommodation: call for evidence’, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, 19 February 2018](#)

1.3 Procurement of the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract

Procurement for the asylum accommodation and support service contracts began in 2017 and is ongoing.

The contract will be to provide accommodation in the following circumstances:

Three types of accommodation services required are:

1. Initial accommodation where a destitute asylum applicant and their dependents will reside before a decision is made on their support claim.
2. Dispersal accommodation where an asylum applicant's claim for asylum support has been approved, they and their dependents are moved to dispersal accommodation whilst their asylum claim and any subsequent appeal are processed.
3. Accommodation for failed asylum applicants and immigration detainees released on bail who may be eligible for support if there is a legitimate barrier to their removal.¹³

Criteria for the contracts are set out in the Statement of Requirements and the Performance Management Regime.¹⁴ In response to a parliamentary Question on the future contracts, the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes Minister of State for Immigration stated:

The forthcoming Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts, include clearly defined performance standards measured through a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set within a wider Performance Management Regime (PMR) that will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Service Users.

This will include ensuring that accommodation is 'Safe', 'Habitable', and 'Fit for Purpose' and is delivered in accordance with the Decent Home Standard, the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. Accommodation providers will also be required to ensure that accommodation meets any other statutory housing standards which are applicable in the specified contract region and is compliant with any Local Authority licensing requirements whilst the property is used to accommodate Service Users.

A property inspection and audit process will form part of the Home Office's contract compliance regime which will ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers are met. Where inspected property does not meet the required standards, there are strict contractual time limits on resolving property defects; failure to meet those time limits could result in service credits being applied through financial deduction from monthly invoices. These will be monitored formally, on a monthly basis, at Contract Management meetings between the providers and representatives of UK Visas and Immigration.¹⁵

¹³ Home Office, [Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract summary](#)

¹⁴ [COMPASS – provision of accommodation, transport and related services for the South of England](#)

¹⁵ [PO 172531](#) [on asylum housing] 10 September 2018

According to the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes Minister of State for Immigration, the Government received tender responses on 12 April 2018 for all regions except North East, Yorkshire and Humber and Northern Ireland.¹⁶ In a letter to the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee, the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes stated:

For two of the seven regions (North East, Yorkshire and Humberside and Northern Ireland) we did not receive any compliant bids to proceed to the next stage of procurement. My officials undertook engagement with potential bidders and the wider market to identify why there were no compliant bids for these regions. My officials are satisfied that the lack of bids was due to technical reasons rather than a general lack of interest in providing the services in these regions. As a result, my officials launched a second procurement exercise known as AASC(2) for these two regions on 21st May this year.¹⁷

It is as yet unclear whether all the existing contract providers have tendered bids for the new accommodation contracts. The Guardian reported that it understood 'a bid by the outsourcing company G4S, which has been hit by financial losses while running the service since 2012, was not accepted by the Home Office. G4S has declined to comment.'¹⁸

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ [UK's asylum dispersal system close to 'catastrophic failure'](#), *The Guardian*, 6 September 2018.

2. Press articles and blogs

Asylum matters

[Briefing for MPs on Asylum Accommodation Contracts](#)

September 2018

Corporate Watch

[Campaign kicks off against G4S and Serco asylum housing contract](#)

26 January 2018

Institute of Race Relations

[Daisy and the £4 billion asylum housing contracts](#)

30 November 2017

2.1 Press

Guardian

[UK's asylum dispersal system close to 'catastrophic failure'](#)

6 September 2018

Independent

[Serco pausing asylum seeker evictions in Glasgow will only provide 'temporary relief', says MSP](#)

6 August 2018

Times [subscription]

[Glasgow city council 'frozen out' of asylum care contract](#)

29 December 2017

Guardian

[Value of asylum housing contracts doubles after criticism of conditions](#)

23 November 2017

Telegraph

[Government launches tendering process for troublesome asylum seekers housing contract](#)

5 August 2017

3. Parliamentary material

3.1 Ministerial Statements

Asylum Accommodation

[HC Deb 8 December 2016 HCWS335](#)

3.2 Debates

Asylum Accommodation

[HC Deb 14 December 2017 216WH](#)

3.3 PQs

[Asylum: Housing](#)

Asked by: Alex Cunningham

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities have made representations to his Department on the new asylum accommodation contracts; and whether his Department has received representations on those contracts from the Local Government Association.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

To continue to meet UKVI's obligation to provide accommodation & support to destitute asylum seekers, the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation (AAST) project has been established to design, develop and procure the future model for asylum accommodation and support, replacing the existing COMPASS arrangements when they expire in Sept 2019.

Since the establishment of the project in the autumn of 2016, there has been extensive engagement with strategic stakeholders, including Strategic Migration Partnerships, Local Authorities and Non-Government Organisations to identify a range of enhancements and improvements to the existing model which have been reflected in the design of the next generation of contracts.

We estimate that there have been over 60 separate stakeholder events or written exercises undertaken since autumn 2016. Details of the feedback provided by individual stakeholders from this engagement could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual correspondence, event minutes and records.

HC Deb 14 Sep 2018 | 172532PQ

[Asylum: Housing](#)

Asked by: Alex Cunningham

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that asylum (a) accommodation and (b) facilities support adequately vulnerable people seeking asylum.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

All applicants for asylum support and accommodation are asked to declare any specialist circumstance or specific accommodation requirements as part of the consideration of their initial application form. In accordance with our published policy, the Home Office will carefully consider all requests on a case by case basis from asylum seekers who may have particular vulnerabilities, care needs or health problems that necessitate a need for a specific location or specialist accommodation requirements. Further details regarding this policy can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-requests-policy>

A further ongoing assessment of needs is undertaken by asylum accommodation providers commencing upon initial entry into accommodation. All asylum accommodation Providers are contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate, including those who have health care issues. In addition Providers must comply with national and local housing regulations including advice from social services and primary and secondary care bodies on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific needs of the individual.

A property inspection process forms part of the Home Office's contract compliance regime which ensures that the required performance standards expected of all providers are met. Where inspected property does not meet the required standards there are strict time limits on resolving property defects; failure to meet those time limits can result in service credits being applied through financial deduction from monthly invoices. These are monitored formally, on a monthly basis, at Contract Management meetings between the providers and representatives of UK Visas and Immigration.

HC Deb 14 Sep 2018 | 172530 PQ

[Asylum: Housing](#)

Asked by: Mr Paul Sweeney

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have had their housing provision removed before their asylum process was fully completed including the appeals process since 2012.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

Section 95 of the of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 provides that an asylum seeker is destitute and therefore eligible to receive accommodation and other support from the Home Office if:

- a) he does not have adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it (whether or not his other essential living needs are met);
- or b) he has adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it, but cannot meet his other essential living needs.

The definition is not changed by the re-tender of the Home Office asylum accommodation contracts. The legislation provides that, unless there are children in their household, a person ceases to be eligible to receive section 95 support 21 days after their asylum claim or any appeal is finally rejected. However, another form of support, including accommodation, is available under section 4(2) of the 1999 Act if the person is taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or there is a temporary or legal or practical obstacle that prevents their departure.

Cessation of s95 support occurs once an applicant is no longer eligible, through having exhausted all appeal rights, being granted a form of leave, has been removed from the country or having left the accommodation voluntarily. Operational checks are undertaken to ensure that there are no outstanding issues or applications, and support can be reinstated if information is received to the contrary.

There is no provision in the accommodation contracts that enable people who cease to qualify for section 95 support and do not qualify for section 4(2) support to continue to be housed.

HC Deb 12 Sep 2018 | 171728PQ

[Asylum: Housing](#)

Asked by: Mr Paul Sweeney

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether provisions have been included in the draft asylum accommodation renewal contract for the future (a) amendment and (b) termination of the contract; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of enacting such provisions.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

The draft asylum accommodation contract includes provision for amendment through a formal change control process that is subject to agreement and formal signing of variation by both parties.

The draft contract also includes provision for termination on grounds of cause or convenience at the authorities absolute discretion. Costs associated with enacting any of these provisions will vary on a case by case basis.

HC Deb 10 Sep 2018 | 170434PQ

[Asylum: Housing](#)

Asked by: Mr Paul Sweeney

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of his Departments policy on asylum accommodation since 2012.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

The Home Office provides accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. The accommodation is arranged through a number of housing providers, who are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard, as well as standards outlined in relevant national housing legislation.

There is an inspection and contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the standards required in the contracts are met.

We remain in regular discussion with Providers, service users, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders about ways to improve the services provided and we will be making a number of improvements to the design of the future contracted services as a direct result of such feedback.

HC Deb 10 Sep 2018 | 170435PQ

[Compass Contracts](#)

Asked by: David Linden

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2018 to Question HL5946 on asylum: housing, if he will publish the criteria set out in the COMPASS contracts on the allocation of shared rooms; and whether the Government has made an assessment of the level of compliance with that criteria.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation

The contract requires Providers to inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to hold suppliers to account to quickly resolve the issue. The Home Office closely monitors the length of stay of asylum seekers in Initial Accommodation and aims to move people to Dispersed Accommodation within 19 days. However, some stay in Initial Accommodation for shorter or longer periods depending on their individual needs. Information on the length of stay of people in Initial Accommodation is not currently recorded in a format suitable for publication.

Accommodation providers must comply with national and local housing regulations including those regarding room sharing. The accommodation contracts set out who may share a room, which includes allowing room sharing for couples, unrelated adults of the same sex and related children depending on their genders and ages. Providers are contractually required to take account of any particular

circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate and an assessment is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific needs of the individual. The statement of requirements contains the criteria for room sharing and can be found

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503103>

HC Deb 26 Jun 2018 | 155929PQ

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[Immigration: Private Sector](#)

Asked by: Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government which functions of the immigration department of the Home Office are carried out by private contractors; and in each case, who are those contractors.

Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Department: Home Office

Details of the immigration department's contracts with private contractors are included in the table below:

UK Immigration Enforcement

Service Name	Service Description	Contractor Name
Immigration Removal Centre	Contract for the provision of operation, management and maintenance of the Colnbrook and Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centres.	Mitie Care and Custody
Immigration Removal Centre	Contract for the provision of operation, management and maintenance of the Brook House Immigration Removal Centre.	G4S
Immigration Removal Centre	Contract for the provision of operation, management and maintenance of the Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre.	G4S
Immigration Removal Centre	Contract for the provision of operation, management and maintenance of the Yarl's wood Immigration Removal Centre.	Serco
Immigration Removal Centre	Contract for the provision of operation, management and maintenance of the Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre.	Mitie Care and Custody
Immigration Removal Centre	Contract for the provision of operation, management and maintenance of the Dungavel	GEO

	House Immigration Removal Centre.	
Pre-Departure Accommodation Welfare Services	Contract for the provision of Pre-Departure Accommodation Welfare Services	G4S
Escorting Services	Contract for the provision of In-country and Overseas Escorting, operation and management of Short Term Holding Facilities and Holding Rooms and related services	Mitie Care and Custody
Travel Services	Services Agreement for the provision of Travel Services for immigration purposes.	Carlson Wagonlit UK Ltd

UK Visas and Immigration

Service Name	Service Description	Contractor Name
COMPASS London & South	Asylum Accommodation, Transport and Support Services	Clearsprings Ready Homes
COMPASS South West & Wales	Asylum Accommodation, Transport and Support Services	Clearsprings Ready Homes
COMPASS Midlands & East of England	Asylum Accommodation, Transport and Support Services	G4S
COMPASS North East, Yorkshire & Humber	Asylum Accommodation, Transport and Support Services	G4S
COMPASS North West	Asylum Accommodation, Transport and Support Services	Serco
COMPASS Scotland & Northern Ireland	Asylum Accommodation, Transport and Support Services	Serco
Life in the UK Test	Administration of Life in the UK Test	PSI Services UK Ltd
Secure English Language Test	Conduct secure English language testing services	Trinity College IELTS Consortium
Digital Assisting	Assisted digital service for customers	We Are Digital
Education assessment	Assessment of educational evidence from customers	Ecttis Ltd

Next generation of Visas	Provision of international visa application centres	Teleperformance VF Worldwide
Biometric data capture in UK	Biometric data capture in UK	Post Office Sopra Steria
Logistics of biometric residency permit cards	Logistics of biometric residency permit cards	Post Office DX Secure
Financial Check	Financial check	Experian Indesser
Contact centre	Contact Service centre for customers	Sitel
Asylum Childcare	Childcare services for asylum seeker interviews in Glasgow	Little Stars Nursery
Asylum Childcare	Childcare services for asylum seeker interviews in Newcastle	Heaton Community Centre
Asylum Childcare	Childcare services for asylum seeker interviews in Liverpool	Bizz Kids
Asylum Childcare	Childcare services for asylum seeker interviews in Solihull	Mobile Creche Company Ltd
Asylum Childcare	Childcare services for asylum seeker interviews in Cardiff	South Riverside Community Development Centre Ltd
Asylum Childcare	Childcare services for asylum seeker interviews in Croydon	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Asylum Support Payments	Payment of support to eligible applicants	Sodexo Motivation Solutions Ltd
Language Analysis	Analysis of language for asylum applicants	Verified AB
Language Analysis	Analysis of language for asylum applicants	Skandinavisk SprakanalysAB (Sprakab)
Consolidated Asylum Support Application Service (CASAS)	Assistance for asylum applicants for the completion of their initial application	Migrant Helpline Ltd
Adult Victims of Modern Slavery	Adult victims of modern slavery care and co-ordination services	The Salvation Army

[Compass Contracts: Inspections](#)

Asked by: Stuart C McDonald

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the inspection regime is for Compass contracts; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

Asylum accommodation is subject to a rigorous inspection regime to ensure that it meets the requirements of the contract and the needs of service users. Providers are required to inspect each property when a service user moves in and out of a property, then again every month. The Home Office also inspects a significant proportion of accommodation each year and prioritises its inspections on an intelligence led basis to target accommodation where there have been issues.

The Home Office conducts some of its inspection jointly with the accommodation provider to ensure better access to the properties, agree what the defects are and allowing rectification work to start immediately. The Statement of Requirements for the Contracts, which is in the public domain, sets out the standards that are expected of asylum accommodation, including examples of defects and clear timelines on the timescales within which any defects must be remedied.

Home Office inspections have found that accommodation generally meets the required standards and where defects are identified they are resolved within the timescales set out in the contract. Where Providers have failed to meet these contractual service standards sanctions have been imposed.

HC Deb 06 Mar 2018 | 130695PQ

[Asylum: Housing](#)

Asked by: Thangam Debbonaire

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the procurement documents for the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Home Office

All Home Office contracts are tendered in compliance with the EU Procurement Directives, which ensure that there is a transparent and equitable procurement process

The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts details and procurement timescales are available at:

<http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:461664-2017:TEXT:EN:HTML>

HC Deb 06 Feb 2018 | 125480PQ

4. Further reading

Government material

[Asylum Accommodation: Call for Evidence](#) – Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, 19 February 2018

[Asylum accommodation support transformation briefing note](#) – UK Visas & Immigration November 2017

Home Affairs Select Committee:

[Letter from the Chair to the Immigration Minister regarding the procurement of asylum accommodation](#), 9 July 2018

[Letter from the Immigration Minister regarding the procurement of asylum accommodation](#), 13 July 2018

Inquiry on Asylum accommodation, January 2016

[Home Affairs Committee, *Asylum accommodation*, 31 January 2017, HC 637 2016-17](#)

[Home Affairs Committee, *Government Response to the Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2016-17*, 10 November 2017 HC551](#)

[All material](#) on the Inquiry.

NGOs and other organisations

[COMPASS contracts for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers](#), National Audit Office, January 2014

[Asylum accommodation and support: Policy development](#), COSLA, March 2018

[A hostile environment: documenting the living situations for asylum seekers in London](#), Refugee Rights Europe, February 2018

[Report: Refugees Welcome?](#), All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, April 2017

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