

IAP NEWS

No 71

The newsletter for the Inter-Agency Partnership December

Welcome to the Edition of IAP News. This edition features: Country Case Updates, Assistance to Iraqi Staff, Holiday Opening hours, Refugee Council podcast showcase, Quarterly Statistics for dispersal and support in the UK.

asylum
support
programme

Case Updates:

If people are concerned about their cases or any of the developments below they should seek legal advice and / or see their nearest One Stop Service.

Zimbabwe Country Guidance Case

In July, BIA sought to overturn an appeal on the Zimbabwe Country Guidance case of a woman known by the initials HS (*IAP News July Edition*). The appeal had originally ruled that there would be a risk of harassment by Zimbabwean security towards removed asylum seekers. As a result Zimbabwean refused asylum seekers were not being forcibly removed. However last week this appeal was overturned by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT).

The implication in practice is that the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) are seeking to resume the removal of refused asylum seekers who do not chose to return voluntarily to Zimbabwe. However the Refugee Legal Centre who represented HS is considering whether to appeal. We will keep you posted with any updates.

Sudan Appeal Case

Recently the government won their appeal against a court ruling which would have made it harder to remove asylum seekers back to their home countries for "internal relocation". The Law lords backed the Home Office, stating that BIA could return three refugees from Darfur to Khartoum.

Due to additional evidence, the Home Office have agreed to review the country guidance. We will keep you updated. Please be aware that the ruling could have consequences for Appeals Rights Exhausted asylum seekers from other countries.

Assistance to Iraqi Staff

The Government have recently announced that they will offer assistance to Iraqi staff working for British armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq.

There will be two different systems – one for current serving staff and their families and one for former staff.

a. Current serving staff with minimum 12 months' continuous service who meet the criteria will be offered:

- A one-off package of financial assistance
- Or the opportunity to apply to come to the UK either through the Gateway Protection Plan (GPP)
- Or the opportunity to apply for indefinite leave to enter the UK, with an accompanying reception and integration package.

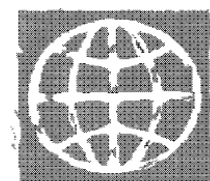
b. Former staff employed on or after 1st Jan 2005, who meet the criteria and were in roles requiring the regular use of English, will be offered:

- The above one-off package of assistance
- Or the opportunity to apply to the GPP
- This group will not be entitled to apply for indefinite leave to enter the UK.

BIA are looking into the details of this process and will publish further information once agreed.

For further details including eligibility criteria please see:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pageName=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1193597484124&year=2007&month=2007-10-01>

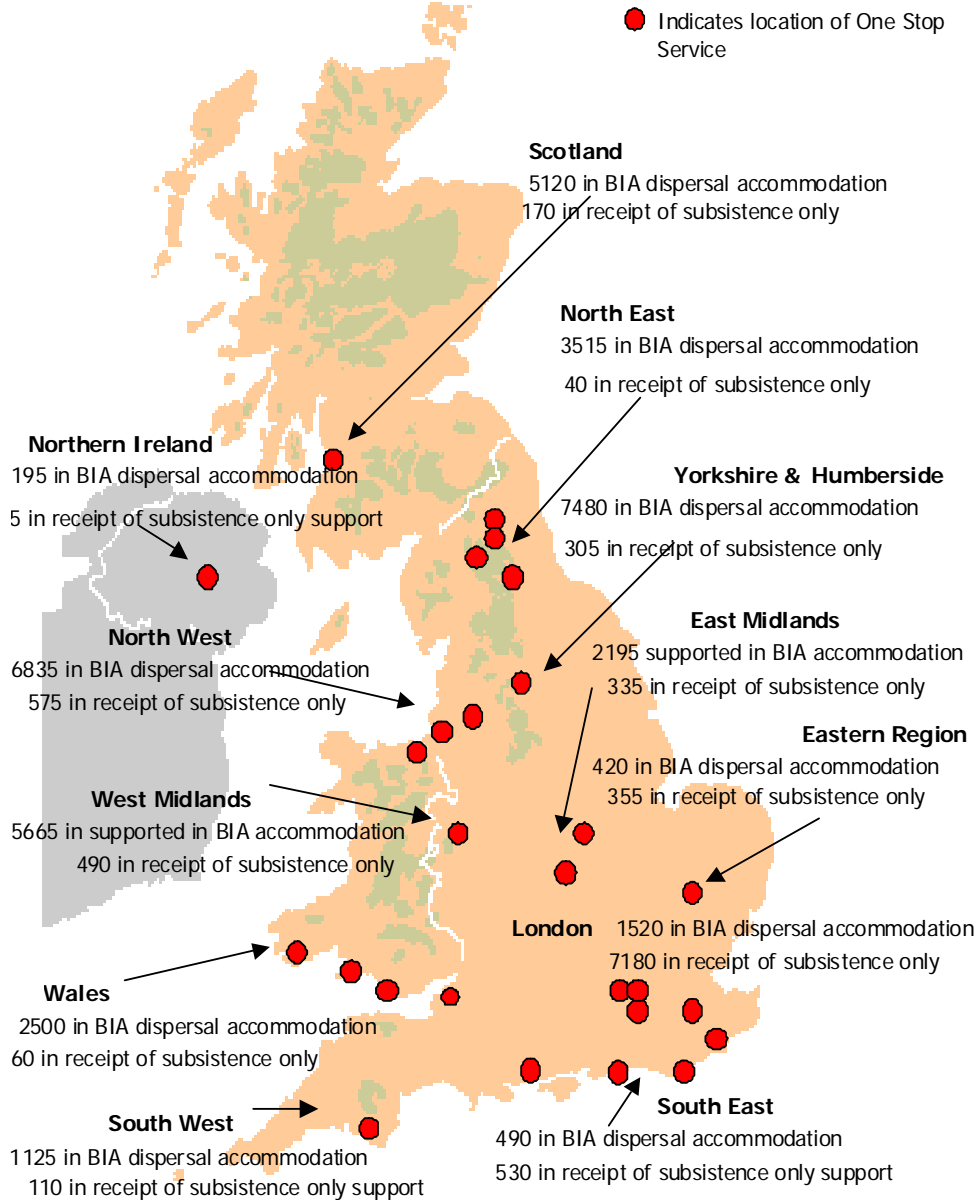


MIGRANT
HELPLINE



**Number of asylum seekers in BIA dispersal accommodation
Number of asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support
as at the end of September 2007**

Total number of asylum seekers in BIA dispersal accommodation – 37, 060
Total number of asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support – 10,160
Total number of asylum seekers supported by BIA– 47,220



10 areas with most asylum seekers receiving accommodation & subsistence		10 areas with most asylum seekers receiving subsistence only		10 areas with most asylum seekers receiving subsistence only (excl. London)	
Glasgow	5115	Newham	670	Birmingham	225
Birmingham	1950	Ealing	585	Manchester	230
Leeds	1885	Haringey	515	Leicester	160
Manchester	1415	Enfield	425	Luton	110
Newcastle	1320	Waltham Forest	405	Leeds	105
Cardiff	1225	Brent	400	Coventry	95
Sheffield	1055	Redbridge	350	Slough	90
Nottingham	1020	Lewisham	290	Nottingham	70
Salford	965	Hackney / Hounslow	280	Bradford	65
Liverpool	935	Lambeth	265	Edinburgh	60

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) Section 4 team opening hours over the festive season will be:

- Week beginning 17th December will be a normal working week, although it is likely that some staff will be on leave.
- BIA hopes to be completely up to date with consideration of applications for support on Wed 19th December.
- BIA will aim to have issued decisions by end of the day on 21st December on all applications submitted between 19th Dec and 21st Dec.
- If any offers of support are issued then BIA urge applicants to respond and to take up the offer immediately, otherwise they will run the risk of not being accommodated by Christmas.
- No initial decision making caseworkers will be working on 24th December although there will be some Telephone Enquiry and Accommodation Booking Team working till 13:00 only. People should be aware that that they will be limited in what they can do to meet Accommodation requests because of the reduced staffing.
- BIA will be completely closed on 25th and 26th Dec and Tuesday 1st January but the office will be open as normal and staffed on 27th, 28th, and 31st Dec.

Contact Details for Case Resolution Directorate

- **Telephone** - Details of a duty caseowner from each CRD team will be listed on the questionnaire sent to each family.
- If unsure which team is dealing with a certain case, BIA recommend calling the Telephone Enquiry Bureau: 0870 606 7766
- **Email** - A dedicated email account will be set up for each CRD team. ICT will keep you updated.

For information on your regional BIA office opening hours, please contact the office directly:

BIA Regional offices

Central London

Tel: 0207 147 5412
Fax: 0207 147 5438

South West

Tel: 01275 815300
Fax: 01275 815301

South East & Central

Tel: 01304 873146
Fax: 01304 873133

East of England

Tel: 01733 847826
Fax: 01733 847800

East Midlands

Tel: 01332 442 207
Fax: 01332 442 213

West Midlands

Tel: 0121 345 8000
Fax: 0121 345 8666

North West

Tel: 0161 261 1307
Fax: 0161 261 1323

Yorkshire and Humberside

Tel: 0113 341 2099
Fax: 0113 341 1957

North East

Tel: 0191 376 2863
Fax: 0191 376 2811

Wales

Tel: 02920 924 567
Fax: 02920 924 559

Scotland

Tel: 0141 5551200
Fax: 0141 5551561

Northern Ireland

Tel: 02894 439734
Fax: 02894 439637

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

The Inter-Agency Partnership's One Stop Services will have the following opening hours over the Winter Break:

All IAP One Stop Services will be closed on the three public holidays – 25th, 26th December and 1st January.

- **Migrant Helpline:**

24th Dec - Open
27th Dec - Open
28th Dec - Open
31st Dec - Open

They can be contacted on the normal number - 01424 461225.

- **North England Refugee Services:**

24th Dec - Open until 1pm
27th Dec - Open from 9.30 am
28th Dec - Open
31st Dec - Open until 1pm
2nd Jan - Open from 9.30 am

- **Refugee Action:**

Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth

24th Dec - Open
27th Dec - Open
28th Dec - Open
31st Dec - Open
2nd Jan - Open

Leicester:

17th Dec - Open (drop in)
18th Dec - Open (appointments, advice line)
19th Dec - Closed to clients
20th Dec - Open (appointments only)
21st Dec - Open (advice line)

24th Dec - Open
27th Dec - Open (appointments only)
28th Dec - Open (advice line)

31st Dec - Open (drop in)
2nd Jan - Closed to clients
3rd Jan – Open (appointments)
4th Jan - Open (advice line)

Refugee Action Plymouth:

24th Dec - Telephone only (10-1; 2-4.30)
27th Dec - Open drop-in (10-12; 2-3.30)
28th Dec - Telephone only

31st Dec - Telephone only
2nd Jan - Emergencies only
3rd Jan – Open drop in (10-12; 2-3.30)
4th Jan - Telephone only

- **Refugee Council:**

London, East of England & Leeds:

24th Dec - Open until 4.30pm
27th Dec - Open
28th Dec - Open
31st Dec - Open
2nd Jan - Open

- **Scottish Refugee Council:**

24th Dec - Closed
27th Dec - Open
28th Dec - Open
31st Dec - Closed
2nd Jan - Closed

- **Welsh Refugee Council :**

21st Dec - Open until 1pm
24th Dec - Closed
27th Dec - Open
28th Dec - Open until 1pm
31st Dec - Closed

Please send articles that you would like to appear in the February edition of IAP News to:

Sarah Fullegar
Inter-Agency Co-ordination Team
Refugee Council
240-250 Ferndale Road
London SW9 8BB
Tel: 020 7346 1154
Fax: 020 7737 3306

Email: sarah.fullegar@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Please note, there will not be a January edition of the IAP newsletter.

On behalf of all of the Inter-Agency Coordination Team we hope you have a peaceful Winter break.