

Ms Bridget Young and Mr Rick Henderson
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7 January 2026

Dear Ms Young and Mr Henderson,

Thank you for your letter of 15 December, also addressed to the Home Secretary and the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government, about the move on period in asylum accommodation.

In December 2024 a pilot program was launched to temporarily extend the time that individuals granted leave had to move on from asylum accommodation to 56 days.

The pilot was amended in September 2025 to exclude single adults with the exceptions of individuals who are pregnant, over the age of 65 or have a known disability, as defined by the 2010 Equality Act. As previously announced the pilot will conclude at the end of December 2025 for all cohorts.

In a letter dated 19 December 2025, it was announced that while we continue to analyse the results of the pilot and consider the longer-term approach, the Home Office has decided to extend it in its current form until 31 January 2026.

An independent evaluation has been ongoing regarding the impact of this pilot. The evaluation - conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and RSM (now Fortia Insight) - has gathered insights from local authorities, devolved governments, service providers and voluntary sector partners.

It is assessing the impact of the extended grace period, the introduction of eVisas, and associated initiatives such as Asylum Move On Liaison Officers and targeted funding for local authorities.

Over the coming weeks we expect to receive final outputs from this evaluation. It is important that we take the necessary time to review this evidence before making any longer-term policy decisions. This measured approach ensures that future arrangements are sustainable and continue to meet our statutory duties while supporting those granted asylum effectively.

The evaluation report cannot be shared externally until we have Ministerial clearance for publication, and two satisfactory external peer reviews.

Once approved, the report will be published on GOV.UK as part of the Home Office Research Series. Publication timelines are subject to grid scheduling and other formal processes, so expected release date is around spring 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Alex Norris MP
Minister for Border Security & Asylum