



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Asylum seekers**

May 2020  
(Ref CB48653)

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern for asylum seekers at this very difficult time. As we respond to the coronavirus pandemic, we want to be very clear that we take the well-being of all those in the asylum system extremely seriously and we are adjusting asylum processes and procedures where necessary and appropriate to adapt to these changes.

Like everyone else in the country, asylum seekers are being asked to stay where they are to help fight against coronavirus. We have worked with Public Health advisors throughout the coronavirus outbreak to inform a national approach, adjusted to account for local concerns. We remain in regular dialogue with public health officials. We continue to ensure that those who are unable to support themselves are moved to free accommodation in order to meet our statutory duty and those placed in hotel accommodation receive free meals, toiletries and other support.

Those who were already in the support system and accommodated in houses and flats will continue to receive cash payments to cover their other needs. We are reviewing the level of these payments, as we do every year. They will also be able to remain where they are even if their asylum claim is resolved, instead of moving on to other arrangements, as would normally be the case.

I hope you find my comments reassuring.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Conor Burns', with a horizontal line underneath.