



Home Office

Home Secretary

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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

28 June 2018

Dear Yvette,

I have apologised unreservedly for the distress caused to people of the Windrush generation. These are people who have contributed to the UK over a number of decades and it is our priority to ensure that we support those who have struggled to demonstrate their right to be here to do so.

We are designing a compensation scheme to help redress the impact on people of the Windrush Generation who have faced difficulties in establishing their status and to do that we have to listen. We have already completed the Call for Evidence, which has given people and community groups the opportunity to share their stories and experiences, and will also ensure that any further responses that continue to come in are logged, read and analysed. It has been sobering to hear and read the stories from individuals, but the exercise has been invaluable in informing the next stage of consultation, as has the input of Martin Forde QC who has been providing me with independent advice. The scheme will be set up as soon as possible, after we have consulted.

In the meantime, immediate government support needs to be targeted and sustainable to meet individuals' specific needs. There are already a number of measures and initiatives the Home Office has put in place to help those who are concerned about benefits or employment.

Where an individual cannot access public funds because of concerns about how their immigration status is documented, then the first priority is to help them with that status. That is why we established the Windrush Taskforce. The taskforce has a dedicated team for vulnerable people. A fast-track service has been arranged between the taskforce and Department for Work and Pensions in order to swiftly confirm the status and residence of people from the Windrush generation and arrange access to benefits and documentation. Where people are identified as being homeless we have, worked with local authorities to secure temporary accommodation. I believe that using these established avenues of support is the best way of ensuring those in immediate need get the necessary support right now.

As well as directly supporting those in need, we have issued interim guidance to landlords and employers and we will be publishing revised right to rent and right to work guidance shortly. If a prospective employee or tenant is unable to present specified documentation in line with the prescribed right to work checks, but provides information indicating that they commenced their residence in the UK before 1988, the employer or landlord should contact the relevant Home Office checking service. They will liaise with the Windrush Taskforce and provide verification of right to work or rent.

This targeted support will ensure that people are quickly able to access; work, accommodation and benefits. The compensation package is an important element of how we make amends to those who have suffered. But it is naturally complex, and we must make sure that we get it right and properly listen to those affected before taking decisions about its design. Making interim compensation payments now would undermine that process. However, I want to do all we can to further support anyone affected and in immediate financial need. I have asked my officials to work with organisations in the Third Sector, who have considerable experience and expertise in supporting those in financial difficulties, with a view to providing tailored advice to people in the Windrush cohort. Alongside our existing taskforce support, this should help any people experiencing hardship to get the right expert advice now, whilst we continue to gather the information that we need to establish a scheme on the right secure footing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

**Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**