



Home Office
Unit 2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Cabinet Office
Perceval House
14/16 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2HL

2nd November 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you following recent reports of asylum seeker families in Ealing being forcibly dispersed from their current accommodation in Acton with only a few days' notice. These families are being forced to uproot their lives and move to Kent and are having to start afresh yet again.

It is concerning that, after significant upheaval and trauma, families are having to abandon the connections that they have made and the lives that they have begun to build with such short notice. Many of these families have school-aged children who will have to start in new schools and others have longstanding medical appointments booked within the next few weeks that they are now unable to keep.

We are told that this dispersal with short notice is due to a building rental contract ending. However, we are told that whilst decision-makers have known about this for months, the Home Office waited until the final few days to tell people that they were being moved.

Whilst we understand that this process is being managed entirely by the Home Office, we at Ealing Council believe that asylum seekers should be treated with dignity and respect. Ealing Council is campaigning to ensure that every local authority in the country steps up to take their fair share of refugees, to ensure that people are given an opportunity to establish themselves and make their own networks rather than being moved at a moment's notice.

We would be grateful for an urgent meeting with you so that Ealing Council can have assurances that this irresponsible treatment of asylum seekers will not happen again. We also ask that the Home Office can also pledge to ensure that refugees making their home in the UK are being given the welcome that they deserve.

Best wishes,

Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of Ealing Council

Councillor Aysha Raza
Cabinet Member for Tackling Crime
and Inequality at Ealing Council

Councillor Lauren Wall
Cabinet Member for Genuinely Affordable
Homes at Ealing Council

