

Issue 6

We do not focus this e-bulletin on Coronavirus. We have a page on our website that we are using to provide you with the latest information and updates on immigration due to Coronavirus and it can be accessed [here](#). Our website page aims to offer useful information and resources to help migrants, and those supporting them, to stay safe, connected and informed, and to reduce the harmful impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19) on our region and on people's lives. It also includes new multi-lingual resources, national guidance, local services and support, and news and updates on specific migrant issues.

If you have any updates, notifications or items for inclusion for our next bulletin please email wmsmp@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Subject	Announcement	Date /Source
Asylum	Migration Statistics: The latest data surrounding immigration in the United Kingdom has been released. Some of the data relates to immigration into the UK, asylum claims, family reunion, grants, EUSS, citizenship, immigration detention, and returns.	GOV.UK 27 May 2021
	Should people displaced by climate change be considered refugees? As climate, environmental degradation, and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements, does this constitute a re-definition of what a refugee is? This article explores how, if at all, a person fleeing their country due to climate change can be referred to as a 'refugee'.	Free Movement 18 June 2021
	Napier Barracks: Following the High Court's ruling that the decision to house asylum seekers in Napier was unlawful , Yvette Cooper MP secured an Urgent Question in the House of Commons on the 10 th June and outlined some of the ruling's key findings. Further information disclosed by the court case has now been made available to the Home Affairs Select Committee and can be accessed here .	Home Affairs Select Committee 10 June 2021

Resettlement	<p>Together with Refugees Launch:</p> <p>Together With Refugees is a coalition of more than 200 national and local organisations, refugees, and people from all walks of life who believe in showing compassion to refugees fleeing war and persecution. The coalition was founded by Asylum Matters, British Red Cross, Freedom from Torture, Refugee Action, Refugee Council and Scottish Refugee Council. The coalition is calling for a better approach to supporting refugees that: allows people to seek safety in the UK, no matter how they came here; ensures people can live in dignity while they wait to find out if they will be granted protection; and enables refugees to rebuild their lives and make valuable contributions to their communities. It also wants the UK to work with other countries to do its bit to help people forced to flee their homes.</p> <p>Find out more and join the campaign at www.togetherwithrefugees.org.uk</p>	<p>Asylum Matters 1 June 2021</p>
	<p>Refugee Week: asylum in the UK, by numbers:</p> <p>The infographics in this article draws on government figures to illustrate some trends in asylum in the UK. Most of the data comes from the latest government immigration statistics, which are validated by the independent Office for National Statistics.</p>	<p>Free Movement 17th June 2021</p>
Citizenship & Immigration	<p>Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2021:</p> <p>Quarterly and annual statistics relating to those: coming to the UK, extending their stay, gaining citizenship, applying for asylum, and being detained or removed, as well as immigration for work, study and family reasons, including new visa routes where these are operational.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 18 June 2021</p>
	<p>APPG on Immigration Detention Inquiry – call for evidence:</p> <p>The APPG on Immigration Detention has launched an inquiry into the UK Government’s use of large-scale institutional sites, such as former military barracks and a temporarily ‘de-designated’ Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), as asylum accommodation. Such sites replicate many of the features found in detained settings, including isolation from the wider community, visible security measures, and reduced levels of privacy and control/agency for residents. The inquiry therefore refers to them as sites of ‘quasi-detention’. The inquiry will seek to understand concerns about the suitability of these types of sites for accommodating people seeking asylum, bearing in mind the potential histories of torture, trafficking and/or other forms of serious trauma, and the ongoing health and legal needs of such individuals. The APPG has issued a call for written evidence to the inquiry. The</p>	<p>APPG 07 June 2021</p>

	<p>deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 25 June 2021. Should you have any questions about the inquiry email contact@appgdetention.org.uk</p>	
	<p>National Referral Mechanism statistics:</p> <p><u>Statistics</u> on referrals to the National Referral Mechanism, for potential victims of modern slavery.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 3 June 2021</p>
	<p>Immigration and protection data: Q1 2021:</p> <p>New data from the Home Office on immigration and protection activities can be found here.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 2 June 2021</p>
	<p>Almost £30 million in compensation paid or offered to the Windrush generation:</p> <p>Members of the Windrush generation have been paid over £20.4 million in compensation, Home Secretary Priti Patel announced (Thursday 27 May). The Windrush Compensation Scheme paid more than £6.2 million in the month of April and offered a further £9 million – bringing the total amount paid and offered to more than £29.5 million.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 1 June 2021</p>
	<p>Briefing: how to apply for a student sponsor licence:</p> <p>International students are worth billions to the UK economy in higher education fees and indirect expenditure, benefitting local communities financially as well as enriching them in non-economic terms. Being able to attract overseas students is crucial to the economic viability of many education providers, but only those with a sponsor licence are able to enrol international students for more than six months. Since Brexit, the stakes are even higher since EU students now have to be sponsored in the same way as non-EU students. This is unless they have pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, or are otherwise lawfully entitled to study in the UK. This article explains how an education provider can apply for a sponsor licence.</p>	<p>Free Movement 21 June 2021</p>
	<p>New free legal advice for Windrush victims:</p> <p>The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants are launching a free legal advice initiative, in collaboration with eight leading law firms, in response to consistently low numbers of applications for the UK government’s Windrush Compensation Scheme, compounded by a lack of legal support in navigating the complex application process.</p>	<p>The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants June 2021</p>

EUSS	First data from the new immigration system: New Home Office data gives a first glimpse into take-up of the new post-Brexit immigration system. The data shows low take-up of the new visa system among EU citizens, although as this commentary explains, it is still too early to judge the impact the immigration system itself is having on EU migration.	The Migration Observatory 08 June 2021
	EU Settlement Scheme Statistics: For the latest EUSS statistics please see here . Overall, the total number of applications received up to 31 May 2021 was 5,605,800. Overall, the total number of applications concluded up to 31 May 2021 was 5,271,300.	GOV.UK 10 June 2021
	View and prove your immigration status: The Home Office has published a new guide for EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens on viewing and providing their immigration status. It clarifies there that the Home Office is enabling some Government departments and public authorities to be able to automatically access immigration status information and this currently includes the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and NHS England and Wales.	GOV.UK 7 June 2021
	EUSS Guidance: Following the recent legal challenge, the EUSS guidance on Covid-related absences has been revised and is now much more generous (including allowing absences for over 12 months).	GOV.UK 10 June 2021
	EU Settlement Scheme application deadline: The House of Commons Library have published a briefing on the EUSS and application deadline. It explains the practical consequences of not having an EUSS status and goes through detailed changes to accessing benefits, NHS, housing and working for EU nationals from 1 July.	House of Commons Library 10 June 2021

	<p>Local Voting Rights for EU Citizens Living in the UK:</p> <p>A policy paper on voting rights of EU nationals is available here.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 17 June 2021</p>
	<p>Briefing: what happens to EU citizens who miss the settled status deadline?</p> <p>This briefing from Free Movement explains the processes of what happens if people fail to apply for citizenship after the EUSS deadline.</p>	<p>Free Movement 28 June 2021</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>New research on refining a public health approach to modern day slavery:</p> <p>New research examines the case for a public health approach to modern slavery and identifies the key components that are considered important in enabling the anti-slavery sector to address modern slavery through a public health lens. The research, which includes a report, an interactive framework and a guide for anti-slavery partnerships, has been developed by the University of Sheffield, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and Public Health England.</p>	<p>Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner 02 June 2021</p>
	<p>Baby and mother win right to access Healthy Start Food scheme:</p> <p>Thousands of babies left out due to parents' immigration status will now be able to benefit from scheme. The article from the Guardian highlights how a woman and her one-year-old baby won a high court challenge granting her the right to access a healthy food and vitamins scheme from which she was previously barred. Thousands of babies and toddlers similarly denied access to the scheme will now be able to benefit from it.</p>	<p>The Guardian 3 June 2021</p>
	<p>Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims:</p> <p>This guidance outlines the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims, and the process for determining whether someone is a victim.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 14 June 2021</p>
	<p>Doctors of the World Briefing on EU Nationals and Health Access:</p> <p>A new briefing on access to health for EU nationals by the Doctors of the world is available here.</p>	<p>Doctors of the World May 2021</p>

Rough sleeping and evictions	<p>No way out and no way home - Modern slavery and homelessness in England Wales and Northern Ireland:</p> <p>The <u>report</u> provides clear evidence of a link between homelessness and modern slavery, with recommendations on what can be done to end the cycle of destitute people ending up victims of modern slavery.</p>	<p>Crisis 25 May 2021</p>
	<p>Right to rent immigration checks: landlords' code of practice:</p> <p><u>Guidance</u> for landlords, homeowners and letting agents affected by the introduction of right to rent immigration checks.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 10 June 2021</p>
UASC	<p>Changes to the National Transfer Scheme:</p> <p>Responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children will be more fairly distributed across the UK as part of new and vital <u>updates</u> to the National Transfer Scheme. The changes to the scheme, announced by the Home Secretary and Education Secretary today (Thursday 10 June), will encourage more local authorities to take part in a planned schedule for taking into care children who arrive in the UK alone and claim asylum – ensuring all areas in the UK play their part.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 10 June 2021</p>
	<p>Children left out: securing children's rights to stay in the UK beyond Brexit:</p> <p>Coram Children's Legal Centres new <u>report</u>, 'Children left out? Securing children's rights to stay in the UK beyond Brexit', draws from the lessons and experiences of CCLC's advice and casework on the EU settlement scheme.</p>	<p>Coram June 2021</p>
	<p>Piloting developing decision making for child victims of modern slavery:</p> <p>The Home Office has launched a pilot programme that will test alternative models of decision making for child victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. The pilot programme begins in June 2021 and will run for 12 months.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 14 June 2021</p>
Vacancies	<p>The WMSMP are looking for a UASC Coordinator! This exciting opportunity to work with the WMSMP team will involve working with unaccompanied asylum seeking children and the National Transfer Scheme. If you are passionate about supporting young people, this job could be for you.</p> <p>The deadline to apply for the role is the 8th July, with interviews being held on the 14th July. For more details and how to apply, please visit <u>here</u>.</p>	<p>WMSMP June 2021</p>

e-Bulletin



The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership works with national, regional and local partners to ensure that the region can deal with, and benefit from, migration. We are hosted by Wolverhampton City Council.

We would like to thank you for all contributions to this bulletin. Information in this bulletin and any references or links to external sources or agencies do not necessarily reflect the views of West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership nor receive its endorsement. WMSMP is not responsible for the accuracy of this information which is intended as a general guide only.