

Good Morning,

During the past year and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, Asylum Operations have delivered enhancements to the existing digital interviewing platform, enabling the customer, interviewer, interpreter and any representatives to be in different remote locations whilst a substantive asylum interview is conducted. This has helped us in continuing to deliver our services in safe and innovative ways to ensure asylum claims are progressed.

To further expand the number of interviews, we have been exploring other suitable locations where we may conduct remote interviews. We are pleased to inform you that from 1st March 2021, a pilot to interview asylum customers in initial accommodation (IA) sites located within Derby and Liverpool will be starting. Migrant Help will be assisting by facilitating the interviews in their offices within the IA locations.

Initially, we intend to focus on inviting customers who are co-located within Derby and Liverpool initial accommodation to conduct remote interviews, using Asylum Operations Decision Makers based in our Mersey office. This will reduce the amount of travel required for our customers based in these locations. If the pilot is successful there will be an opportunity to expand this process across other initial accommodation sites.

We are confident that this will offer an excellent opportunity to progress asylum claims for our customers and we hope you will agree that this is a positive step. We will continue to update you as the process is rolled out and developed.

We would appreciate if Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMP) leads and Local Government Authority contacts who receive this e-mail could share with others to ensure the message has been cascaded and received across all networks.

Thank you for your continued support at this challenging time. For any enquiries, please get in touch via the Asylum Operations Stakeholder Mailbox at AsylumOpsStakeholder@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

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OUR VISION

To be a world-leading immigration service,
working for a safe and prosperous United Kingdom



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