



Paula Barker MP

Member of Parliament for Liverpool Wavertree

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Email: paula.barker.mp@parliament.uk

Rt Hon. Priti Patel
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

By email only

Date: 23rd July 2021

Dear Home Secretary,

Impending evictions from asylum accommodation in Liverpool City Region

We are contacting you urgently as representatives in the Liverpool City Region regarding the impending eviction of up to 275 people from asylum accommodation in our community.

We understand that the people due to be evicted are those that have had their claim for asylum refused during the pandemic period and that the overall number therefore represents a backlog that the Home Office are aiming to clear in the coming period, with those affected receiving just 21 days' notice. However, only high-level information has been provided to our local authorities and a request from Liverpool City Council for the postcodes of the asylum accommodation housing that subject to potential eviction proceedings has been refused.

We also understand that the Home Office (via Serco) began to serve 21 day notices to some of these people in May this year and its not been made clear whether these notices will be relied upon for the purposes of the evictions or whether fresh 21 day notices will be served in all cases.

Local authorities in the Liverpool City Region are already under huge pressure because of the pandemic and years of funding cuts. Even amongst this, we have helped the Government achieve its objectives through resettling refugees in our areas and are proud to do so. It's an outrage that some of the most vulnerable people in our communities are facing impending homelessness at the hands of your department, without being provided with the information we need to plan our local response.

In addition, third sector organisations who support people seeking asylum in the LCR are already stretched to the limit and some are now having to turn people away, due to their funding not matching the unprecedented demand they are facing.

All of this is a recipe for a preventable crisis unless you intervene to ensure your department works collaboratively with us.

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To this end, we urgently request:

- That your department provides the postcodes of the asylum accommodation in the LCR region that will be served notices to quit.
- That your department provides a breakdown of the dates upon which it is planned to serve the notices over the coming weeks.
- An assurance that new notices will be served to all of those in scope for eviction to provide them with time to access support and exercise their appeal rights
- That you arrange for emergency funding to be provided to local authorities and third sector organisations to help support people during this time.

Finally, we ask that planned evictions are paused to allow for discussions to take place between Ministers and the Liverpool City Region Mayor, Steve Rotheram, and local authority leaders about this issue, in the same manner as has been afforded to the devolved administrations in the other nations of the UK.

We would be grateful for a response by close of play Tuesday 27th July 2021, given the urgent nature of the issues raised.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Barker MP
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Mike Amesbury MP
Ian Byrne MP
Dan Carden MP
Rosie Cooper MP
Dame Angela Eagle MP
Maria Eagle MP
Margaret Greenwood MP
Sir George Howarth MP
Kim Johnson MP
Marie Rimmer MP
Mick Whitley MP

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