



UK Mission
Geneva

**From the Permanent
Representative**
58 Avenue Louis Casarì
1216 Cointrin
Switzerland

20 January 2020

Tel: +41 (0) 22 918 2325
Fax: +41 (0) 22 918 2344

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Ahmed Reid

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African
Descent

Dainius Puras

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest
attainable standard of physical and mental health

Leilani Farha

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an
adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this
context

Felipe González Morales

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Dear Dr Reid, Mr Puras, Ms Farha, and Dr González Morales,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November 2019, regarding concerns about racial discrimination as a result of immigration policy particularly affecting the human rights of the “Windrush generation”. Our observations on the points raised in your letter are provided in the attached annex.

The Government is committed to combatting racism, both domestically and internationally. At home, our focus is on creating a fair society where all people, regardless of ethnic origin or background, are valued and able to participate fully and realise their own potential. Internationally, we believe that one of the most effective ways to tackle injustices and advocate for respect amongst different ethnic groups is to encourage countries to uphold their human rights obligations, particularly through international institutions such as the United Nations. The UK continues to engage on resolutions which consider racism, and work with member states at a ministerial and official level to discuss how to eliminate racial discrimination.

I hope the further detail set out in the annex addresses your concerns in regard to the allegations you received. The UK Government reiterates our strong support for the work of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JNBraithwaite', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JULIAN BRAITHWAITE

REPLY BY UK GOVERNMENT TO JOINT COMMUNICATION OF 20 NOVEMBER 2019

Annex

Response of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Communication AL GBR 5/2019 received on 20 November 2019, from the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the allegations (as contained in the communication).

On 16 April 2018, the Home Office¹ established a Taskforce to help individuals resolve their immigration status as quickly as possible and to obtain documents enabling them to demonstrate their eligibility to access work, benefits and services. On 24 May 2018, the former Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, made a Written Ministerial Statement to the UK Parliament setting out the details of the Windrush Scheme to resolve the status of those affected. The Scheme was launched on 30 May 2018, and ensures that members of the Windrush generation, their children born in the UK, and those who arrived in the UK as minors are able to apply to the Windrush Taskforce for documentation to demonstrate their lawful right to be in the UK, including citizenship, free of charge.

The Home Office also launched the Windrush Compensation Scheme on 3 April 2019. Having worked closely with prominent community members and Martin Forde QC, the Home Secretary's independent adviser to the Scheme, an initial 'Call for Evidence', followed by a public consultation, shaped the design of the Windrush Compensation Scheme.² Individuals eligible can claim compensation for a wide range of losses that they may have experienced and the Home Office will help claimants provide evidence to support their claims. Losses fall under 13 different categories: immigration fees and associated legal costs; detention and deportation; access to employment; child benefit, child tax

¹ The Home Office is the lead UK Government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and police.

² Details and analysis of the feedback we received can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-scheme>.

credit, working tax credit; housing; health; education; banking; homelessness; impact on daily life and discretionary. There is no overall cap on the amount an individual can receive as part of the Windrush Compensation Scheme. Payments are being made under the Scheme and we plan to publish data on the Compensation Scheme soon.

Since the launch of the Windrush Compensation Scheme, the Home Office has initiated or participated in over 30 public engagement events across the UK to raise awareness of the Scheme and provided information and support on how to submit a claim. These engagement events are in addition to the outreach surgeries being held by the Taskforce to help people with their documentation. Information on the location and detail of these events can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme.

As part of the engagement strategy, the Home Secretary chaired a Stakeholder Advisory Group in September 2019, which most recently met on 9 December 2019. This Advisory Group brings together community leaders, faith leaders, and lawyers with wide geographical representation to discuss and feed into our communications and engagement strategy, and other thematic issues. The purpose of both the engagement events and the Advisory Group is to ensure we are reaching as many affected individuals as possible to encourage more people to claim compensation and secure any documents they need.

In addition, a Windrush volunteer network was set up in 2018 and consists of around 130 Home Office employees, most of whom have links with Caribbean, Asian and African communities across the country, and want to play an active part in helping those affected. The primary objective of the volunteer network is to provide a bridge between the Home Office and local communities. The volunteer network plays a crucial role in helping to rebuild trust with the Department and amplifying the voices of those who have been affected. The volunteers assist at engagement events and raise awareness of the Windrush Scheme and the Windrush Compensation Scheme in their own communities. They provide feedback on our events and engagement strategy.

The Home Office recognises that some individuals have faced, and continue to face, hardship. In response to this, we published our Support in Urgent and Exceptional Circumstances Policy on 17 December 2018.³ This provides support to individuals who have an urgent and exceptional need. We have also established a dedicated Vulnerable Persons Team in the Windrush Taskforce

3

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf

to provide help and advice, where safeguarding and vulnerability issues are identified.

In June 2018, former Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, commissioned an independent Lessons Learned review, which is being conducted by Wendy Williams, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.⁴ We await the final report, which will identify key legislative, policy and operational decisions, which led to some members of the Windrush Generation becoming entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants. We will respond to the report once it has been received.

The Home Office has reviewed the safeguards in place to ensure that those who are lawfully present in the UK are not disadvantaged by measures put in place to tackle illegal migration and additional safeguards have been introduced. These include additional support within the checking services provided to employers, landlords and public service providers to ensure we are not denying work, benefits and services to those individuals who are entitled to them. The Home Office introduced temporary restrictions on the parameters of proactive data-sharing, whilst processes are reviewed, to ensure members of the Windrush generation are not wrongly impacted.

The Government believes it is right to maintain controls designed to deter and prevent illegal immigration through regulating access to work, benefits and services, and is committed to ensuring that these measures distinguish effectively between those who have lawful status in the UK and those who do not. The UK's controls are similar to those operated by other comparable countries. For example, other EU member states are subject to an EU Directive, which requires member states to prevent illegal working by illegally resident third country nationals through controls on employment.

The Right to Rent Scheme was launched under the Immigration Act 2014, to prevent illegal migrants from accessing the private rental sector, and to tackle unscrupulous landlords who seek to exploit vulnerable migrants, sometimes housing them in very poor conditions. The Scheme was initially trialed in the West Midlands in 2014. This trial was evaluated in full, with the results published in October 2015. They included 539 responses to online surveys, 12 focus groups, 36 one-to-one interviews, and a mystery shopping exercise,⁵ involving 332 encounters. This mystery shopping-based research project did not find evidence of systemic discrimination against Black and Minority Ethnic

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review>

⁵ A methodology used to measure compliance with regulations, where the mystery shopper performs specific tasks, such as seeking to rent a property; asking questions and behaving in a certain way, then providing detailed feedback on their experience

would-be renters, in either the phase one Right to Rent location or comparator research areas. The results of the evaluation were published in October 2015.⁶

The Scheme was then implemented across England in February 2016 introducing the requirement for landlords and lettings agents to take reasonable steps to check that they are renting only to someone who has a right to do so. These checks apply equally to everyone seeking to rent property.

On 1 March 2019, the High Court ruled that the policy was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Home Office disagrees with this judgment and has been given permission by the court to appeal all aspects of the judgment. The appeal was heard on 15, 16 and 17 January and we await the outcome.

We have commissioned an evaluation of the Right to Rent Scheme, which will provide further insight on the potential for unlawful race discrimination. As with our previous study, the evaluation will involve mystery shopping of agents and landlords by independent external contractors. We will also undertake surveys of landlords, to better understand issues relating to potential discrimination.

The Right to Rent Scheme remains in force with landlords, and letting agents are still obliged to conduct right to rent checks, as required in legislation. The law was, and remains, absolutely clear that discriminatory treatment on the part of anyone carrying out these checks is unlawful. The Right to Rent legislation provides for codes of practice which sets out a landlord's legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and provides practical guidance for landlords on how to avoid discrimination.⁷

- 2. Please provide the details, and where available the latest results related to investigation and judicial or other inquiries which may have been carried out in relation to the above case. What complaints mechanisms have been put in place? Please provide data on the status of the complaints and what has been the outcome.**

The previous Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, tasked Wendy Williams to look at the Right to Rent Scheme as part of her Windrush Lessons Learned Review. The Home Affairs Select Committee and the Public Accounts

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-right-to-rent-scheme>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-rent-landlords-code-of-practice>

Committee have also conducted inquiries into Windrush. Information can be found on the Parliament website.⁸

Judicial challenges are able to be brought in the courts in relation to the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. Some individuals have pursued claims about their own personal circumstances, but there have been no judicial determinations about the terms of the Windrush Scheme or the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Applicants under the Windrush Scheme can request a review of the decision to refuse all or part of their application, including refusals made on eligibility grounds. There is no charge for such a review and the review is carried out by an independent case worker, who is not part of the Windrush Taskforce. A review under the Windrush Scheme is not limited to information that was before the original decision-maker: if the applicant, or a third party, provides new information or new evidence then it must be considered as part of the review. Applicants can also choose to make a second application under the Scheme, instead of requesting a review. A second application is considered a fresh application if the claimant applies for something different or provides new information/fresh evidence on the application form.

Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants can request that the Home Office reviews a decision on eligibility for compensation. The review will be an internal review, conducted by someone who has not been involved in the case. If an individual is deemed to be eligible for compensation, but they are dissatisfied with the offer made to them, they can also request a review of this decision. This will be an internal (Tier 1) review by a caseworker who has not been involved in the case. If an eligible claimant has gone through our internal (Tier 1) review process and remains dissatisfied, they are able to request an independent review. The case will be looked at by the Adjudicator's Office, a non-departmental public body which investigates complaints about HM Revenue and Customs⁹ (HMRC) and reviews Home Office decisions on entitlement to compensation, under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.¹⁰

Even where a claimant has accepted an offer of compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme, there is no bar on a claimant also pursuing any judicial action they consider is merited by their own personal circumstances. Judicial action can be a request for judicial review of any

⁸ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry19/>

⁹ Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is the UK Government department responsible for the collection of taxes.

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-adjudicator-s-office/about>

decision made under the Windrush Scheme or Windrush Compensation Scheme.

If a claimant is dissatisfied with the service received from the Home Office and wishes to make a complaint, they can do so by emailing the Home Office, or they can write to the Department.¹¹ They can also make representations to their local Member of Parliament or to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

3. Please provide the latest figures on the following:

- a) The number of people affected and contacted disaggregated by sex and age;**
- b) The number of cases of wrongful detention disaggregated by sex and age;**
- c) The number of cases in which wrongful deportation has been identified, and to which country;**
- d) The total number of claims that were filed for compensation through the Windrush Compensation Scheme;**
- e) The number of claims that were successful and the number of claims that were rejected;**
- f) The total amount in compensation paid to Windrush victims to date.**

The Home Office publishes regular updates on the work of the Taskforce and the Historical Cases Review to the Home Affairs Select Committee. These updates cover a range of statistics and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>. Disaggregation by sex of those identified by the historical cases review, as affected by compliant environment sanctions, detention and removal can be found in the June 2019 update to the Home Affairs Select Committee, which can be accessed here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807493/Update_to_the_HASC_on_Windrush_-_10_June_2019.pdf

The Home Office plans to publish data shortly on the Windrush Compensation Scheme. This will include the number of claims made, the number of payments made so far, and the amount paid so far to claimants.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/complaints-procedure>

4. Please provide information as to the use of personal data submitted by claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme and whether such data are used for enforcement purposes. Please also provide the criteria used by the Government to arrive at the total amount for compensation.

Information supplied as part of a claim for compensation cannot be used for enforcement action. The Windrush Compensation Scheme Privacy Information Notice (PIN) covers how the Scheme will process personal data and what individuals can expect from us with respect to their rights under Data Protection legislation. The PIN can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-privacy-information-notice/windrush-compensation-scheme-privacy-information-notice>.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme offers all individuals affected the opportunity to provide evidence against actual losses, and actively works with claimants to help evidence their claims (for example by speaking directly to tax authorities). The Scheme is designed such that the 13 different categories of claim are not singular but can be cumulative. Some categories of claim have an upper limit, but there is no overall cap on the amount an individual can receive in compensation under the Scheme. Compensation is awarded according to both actual losses and tariff-based payments. Where claimants can evidence specific losses under applicable categories, they are reimbursed for those losses (actuals). The principles underpinning the Windrush Compensation Scheme are in line with the principles of other compensation schemes. Tariff-based payments have been carefully calculated, taking into consideration the current Home Office Ex-Gratia Compensation Scheme,¹² other similar compensation schemes across government departments, and case law evidence of courts awarding a range of damages, subject to individual case details. There is a discretionary category that will enable people to claim for other losses, not necessarily identified within the Scheme. The Windrush Compensation Scheme rules and guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>. It is important that the Scheme is fair and that members of the Windrush generation are properly compensated for the difficulties they have faced.

5. Please provide information on whether any of those who were detained under the policy are still in detention, and what plans, if any, are there to release them.

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ex-gratia-guidance>

The Home Office's Historical Cases Review identified 122 individuals of Caribbean Commonwealth nationality, born before 1 January 1973, who had been detained by the Home Office since 2002, and whose records indicated they had been in the UK before 1973¹³. None of these individuals are currently in detention. Full details and updates on the Historical Cases review can be found in our update to the Home Affairs Select Committee, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>.

6. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that the specific needs of women and children detained, under the policy, if any, were duly taken into account.

The routine detention of children under the age of 18 for immigration purposes in the UK ended in 2010. This was followed by the introduction, in March 2011, of a four-stage family returns process that placed the welfare of the child at the heart of the decision and returns process. Key parts of the family returns process were enshrined in the Immigration Act 2014. However, there are certain situations where it may still be necessary to detain families with children. These are: on arrival at the UK border, while checks are made to determine whether they can be admitted or, if they have no right to enter the country, until the time of the next available return flight; and as a last resort under the final stage of the four-stage family returns process. Detention in these circumstances is subject to a 72-hour limit, which can be extended to an absolute maximum of seven days with ministerial authorisation.

Unaccompanied children may be detained only in very exceptional circumstances, for the shortest period possible, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

Pregnant women may be detained only in very limited circumstances for up to 72 hours, which can be extended to an absolute maximum of seven days with ministerial authorisation.

Women without children, and who are not pregnant, may be detained in accordance with general detention policy. This provides that detention must be used sparingly, for the shortest period reasonably necessary, and authorised

¹³ The number of individuals identified by the Historical Cases Review as being detained can be found in the 10 June 2019 update to the Home Affairs Select Committee. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-10-june-2019>

only after all reasonable alternatives have been considered. There must also be a realistic prospect of the person being removed from the UK within a reasonable period. Guidance for staff on meeting the needs of women while they are detained is available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/women-in-detention>. We are currently piloting alternatives to detention for a number of vulnerable women who would otherwise be detained.

7. Please provide information on the measures taken by the Government to address allegations of unlawful deportations.

It is important to distinguish between deportation and removal. Deportation relates to an individual's removal from the UK if he/she has been convicted of a criminal offence, or his/her presence in the UK is otherwise not conducive to the public good.

Removal relates to individuals who have no legal right to be in the UK. This is typically when a person:

- is refused 'leave to enter' at a port (land, sea or air);
- has entered the UK illegally (for example if they came in the back of a lorry);
- has overstayed his/her leave (for example, remained longer than a visa allows);
- has breached conditions attached to his/her leave; or
- is a dependent family member of any of the above.

The Windrush Scheme and the Windrush Compensation Scheme are open to individuals who believe they have been incorrectly removed or deported from the UK but should have been afforded protection from deportation under the provisions of the Immigration Act 1971. Applications can be made from overseas.

In all deportation decisions involving persons not subject to protection under the Immigration Act 1971, the UK is bound by its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights¹⁴ and the Refugee Convention.¹⁵ Where an Article 8 claim is made, consideration is given to the individual's private or family life to determine if it is outweighed by the public interest in deportation. In respect of those seeking protection in the UK, we provide it for

¹⁴ https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/3b66c2aa10>

those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Conventions.

Where a decision is made to deport and representations are raised against that decision, a Foreign National Offender (FNO) may be granted a right of appeal. This may be exercised in or out of country depending on the circumstances of the case. It is open to an FNO to challenge their deportation by submission of further representations or an application to the court until the point of departure from the UK.

8. Please provide information on the measures taken to investigate the alleged deaths of British citizens.

The Taskforce has worked proactively with partners in the UK and overseas to obtain contact details of individuals, or their family members, identified in the Historical Cases Review. For example, where the Home Office does not hold current contact details for an individual or a relative, contact has been made with the Department for Work and Pensions¹⁶ (DWP) and/or HMRC to establish whether their records confirm a current footprint in the UK. The Taskforce has also worked with the relevant British High Commissions to try and make contact with those who may be living overseas. In making efforts to get in touch with these individuals, information has come to light in Home Office records, from DWP and from family members who have been contacted that some individuals had sadly passed away.

The Taskforce has now been in contact with family members of most of the individuals identified in the Historical Cases Review who have passed away. They have been made aware of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and that they would be entitled to make a claim under the Scheme as the estate of a deceased person, should they wish to. The Taskforce continues to try to get in touch with the remaining families.

9. Please provide information on the government's plan to resettle those who were wrongfully deported under the policy.

Where individuals have sought support to return to the UK, the Taskforce Vulnerable Persons Team has worked with them to facilitate their return. This has included liaising with Other Government Departments and local Government over reinstatement of any benefits payable, help with securing housing and where necessary, funding the cost of their travel back to the UK.

¹⁶ The Department for Work and Pensions is the UK Government department responsible for welfare and pension policy.

Individuals who have been wrongfully removed, can apply to regularise their immigration status free of charge through the Windrush Taskforce. These individuals may also be eligible for compensation through the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The Windrush Compensation Scheme offers awards for wrongful detention and removal, as well as an uncapped 'Impact on Daily Life' category of claim. Please see answers to questions 1 and 4 for more information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

10. Please provide information on the measures taken to guarantee at present the realization of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, such as right to health, education, housing and adequate standard of living of those affected by the policy, including women and children, and what remedial action, if any, is being undertaken to shield those affected with emotional distress or deterioration in their mental and physical health as a result of the policy.

Our priority has been to ensure that individuals who have struggled to demonstrate their right to be here are supported to do so. The Taskforce has had notable success in providing such support to affected members of the Windrush generation. This has included:

- Implementing a fast-track service with DWP to confirm status and residence, enabling access to benefits and back-payment of any previously withdrawn;
- Working closely with local authorities to secure temporary accommodation for those who are homeless; and
- Referring people assessed by the Taskforce to bespoke debt advice from Citizens Advice, where this is appropriate.

The Home Office has two mechanisms in place for those who are vulnerable and have been affected by Windrush. The Taskforce's dedicated Vulnerable Persons Team (VPT) provides help and advice where safeguarding and vulnerability issues are identified. Whilst all members of the Taskforce are equipped to identify, handle and offer support to vulnerable customers, the VPT was established to ensure that those in most urgent need could obtain support and advice via a single point of contact within the Taskforce. The VPT is our primary mechanism to support those in need, who work with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure individuals are receiving the support they need, including Local Authorities, DWP, and non-governmental organisations, such as The Salvation Army. The VPT has had notable success in resolving individual issues and building trust. To the end of September 2019, the VPT

has provided support to 987 individuals with 91 cases ongoing. They continue to receive approximately nine new referrals each week.

The Home Office also published an Urgent and Exceptional Support policy to support members of the Windrush Generation with urgent and exceptional need. Please see answer to question 1 for more detail.

11. Please provide information on the steps taken by the Government to provide effective remedy to members of the Windrush generation, including an apology, rehabilitation, reparation and measures taken to prevent racial discrimination.

The UK Government continues to apologise to members of the Windrush generation who have had difficulty evidencing their lawful status. The former Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, wrote letters of apology to 67 individuals identified by the Historical Cases Review.

The independent Lessons Learned review, commissioned by former Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, will identify key legislative, policy and operational decisions that led to some members of the Windrush generation being entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants. Please see answers to questions 1 and 2 for more information.

As well as financial redress, affected individuals are able to request an apology from the Home Office through the Windrush Compensation Scheme. Please see answers to questions 1 and 4 for more information on the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

12. Please provide information on the number of tenants affected – during the time it was in place - by the requirement for landlords to carry out immigration checks of their tenants as part of the “Right to Rent” scheme. Was the discriminatory impact of this requirement measured by the Government?

The Scheme was initially trialed in the West Midlands in 2014. This trial was evaluated in full, with the results published in October 2015. They included 539 responses to online surveys, 12 focus groups, 36 one-to-one interviews, and a mystery shopping exercise involving 332 encounters. Our evaluation found there was no systemic discrimination on the basis of race.

The previous Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid asked Wendy Williams to look at the Scheme as part of her Windrush Lessons Learned Review, drawing her attention to the High Court's findings. The review will identify the key legislative, policy and operational decisions which resulted in members of the Windrush generation becoming entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants. We will respond to it when it is received.

We are also taking forward an evaluation of the Scheme, which will provide further insight on the potential for unlawful race discrimination, and we will look to develop further mechanisms to monitor the operation of the Scheme to provide ongoing assurance about its impact. As with our previous study, the further evaluation involves mystery shopping of agents and landlords by independent external contractors. We will also undertake surveys of landlords, to better understand issues relating to potential discrimination.

13. Please provide information on plans to amend the Immigration Act 2016 and end the “right to rent” policy and the other hostile environment measures, and any other preventive measures that the Government has taken to ensure non-recurrence of racial discrimination and violations of the rights of British ethnic minorities, and in particular of people of African descent in the UK.

The UK Government has no plans to end controls on access to work, benefits and services. The measures introduced, as a result of Windrush, have enabled those affected to obtain the required documents to evidence their status in the UK and the prescribed list of documents that an individual may provide to demonstrate their right to rent are ones that most lawful residents already have, or are able to obtain, at a minimum cost.

It remains the case that, as well as having a fair and humane immigration system, we need a system that clearly distinguishes between those that are here legally and those who are here illegally. As such, the Home Office does not plan to abolish the 'Right to Rent' policy. The public expects us to tackle immigration offending and ensuring only that those who are in the UK lawfully can access the private rental sector is an important part of that.