

Windrush Compensation Scheme Launches

Yesterday the Home Secretary opened a scheme to compensate members of the Windrush generation who have suffered losses due to their inability to prove their right to live in the UK.

The Scheme, which was designed in consultation with those affected and with independent advice from Martin Forde QC, is the latest step in the Home Secretary's commitment to right the wrongs experienced by the Windrush generation.

Who is eligible?

The compensation scheme will provide payments to individuals who suffered losses as a result of not being able to evidence their lawful status in the UK. These could range from a loss of employment or access to housing, benefits, education or NHS healthcare to emotional distress or a deterioration in mental and physical health.

The Scheme is open to those who settled in the UK from a Commonwealth country before 1973, and in certain circumstances their children and grandchildren. Additionally, it is open to all nationalities who arrived to live in the UK before 31 December 1988 and are settled here. [Read more](#) on all the categories of eligibility.

The Home Office will also refund fees paid for certain, unsuccessful immigration applications, and reimburse legal fees that were incurred in relation to these.

How to apply?

It is quick and easy to make an application, and help is available to those who require additional support to make a claim. Claim forms can be downloaded and guidance on completing the application can be found at www.gov.uk/windrush-compensation

Claimants can also request a form to be sent by post by calling our helpline on **0800 678 1925** or via email WindrushCompensationScheme@homeoffice.gov.uk where they can also request a call back if they are overseas.

Events

We will be running a series of open events around the country for those affected, as well as for key faith and community leaders. The events will explain the detail of the Scheme and give everyone who is eligible, from any nationality or background, the opportunity to hear about the scheme, and ask questions. The first event is in Brixton on Friday 5 April and will be open to the public. The schedule of future events will be available on Gov.UK shortly.

If you would like to be involved in the events or are able to help publicise them, please let us know.

Promoting the Compensation Scheme

A communications pack is attached with materials to help you promote the compensation scheme on your own channels. This includes core lines as well as digital files for use on social media channels. We would be grateful if you could help us to spread the word. If you would like content to promote the scheme in a more suitable format, please get in touch.

The Windrush Taskforce

Last April, the Home Secretary established the Windrush Taskforce that has helped over 3,600 people secure British citizenship to date. An independent lessons learned review, led by Wendy Williams, has also been set up to establish what went wrong and how to prevent it happening again.