



Home Office

# **FACT SHEET FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

## **The Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation Scheme**

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# Background

The UK has been running a scheme to support locally employed staff (LES) in Afghanistan, often in dangerous and challenging situations, in recognition of their commitment and bravery shown supporting UK forces since 2013.

The scheme currently consists of two elements:

- The ex-gratia scheme which will close in November 2022 and;
- The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy which launched in April 2021, reflecting the changing situation in Afghanistan and consequent risk to LES.

Both schemes are intended to support current and former LES who have worked for British Forces and to provide appropriate support that honours their service and properly reflects their work and the risks involved. The schemes provide a range of in-country packages of assistance in Afghanistan and, for those who meet the criteria, relocation to the UK with their dependants.

Those who qualify and choose to relocate to the UK with their families are not expected to return to Afghanistan. After completing five years limited leave they can apply for permanent residence in the UK, free of charge, ensuring that they can settle here permanently and continue to build their lives and future here.

People coming to the UK under this scheme may arrive either as a whole family unit or with the lead person arriving first and their dependents joining them at a later point, depending on their individual circumstances.

# Local authority support

People who are relocated under the scheme are supported for a four month period by a local authority who will meet the family/individual at the arrival airport and take responsibility for them from arrival.

The local authority is responsible for providing a four month integration package which includes:

- Reception arrangements upon arrival at the airport including handover from flight escorts and welcome briefing
- Accommodation
- A package of advice and assistance covering employment, welfare benefits, housing, health, education and utility supply
- Registration with GPs and local Job Centre Plus including receipt of a National Insurance Number
- Assistance in securing school places for school aged children
- Cash support.

It should be noted that LES are not eligible for benefits until they can satisfy the Habitual Residency Test set by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) which can take up to 3 months, so the local authority provides financial support to those who arrive under the relocation schemes for up to 4 months.

# Local authority funding

The local authority is provided with funding to support families as outlined below through a Grant funding arrangement. The local authority claims an initial payment on arrival and a further payment after the 4 month period has ended.

The current rates of support are outlined below:

1. 4 month funding package for Beneficiaires arriving either as a single person or with their family members:

Accommodation			
Set-up and void costs (lump-sum)	Per person rate for families	Per person rate for couples	Per person rate for singles
	£1250	£1425	£2850
Rent (up to 4 months)	£15 per person, per day		
1 night hotel accommodation (if	£50 per person		

needed, dependant on time of arrival)				
Baby pack comprising cot, highchair etc	£225 per any child under two years of age			
<b>Integration</b>				
To provide integration support (lump-sum)	Per person rate for families	Per person rate for couples	Per person rate for singles	
	£4500	£6000	£7500	
<b>Cash support</b>				
Weekly cash support rates (up to 4 months)	Single (under 25)	Single (25 or over)	Couples	Child (under 18)
	£58.90	£74.35	£117.10	37.75
<b>Transport</b>				
Transfer from airport to accommodation	£40 per person			

2. 8 week funding for dependents joining a family member already settled under the scheme:

<b>Accommodation</b>		
Set-up and void costs	Spouse	Per child
	£1,500	£1,500
Rent	Only for large families	
Baby Pack	£225 per child under two years of age	
<b>INTEGRATION</b>		
To provide integration support (lump sum)	Spouse	Per child
	£4,500	£4,500
<b>CASH SUPPORT</b>		
Weekly cash support rates (8 weeks)	Spouse	Per child
	£43.00	£37.75
<b>TRANSPORT</b>		
Transfer from airport to accommodation	£40 per person	