



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

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Reference FOI-1719

Date 21 May 2024

## FOI REQUEST CLARIFICATION

I refer to your correspondence on 6 May 2024 in which you requested “I would be most grateful if you would provide auditing and financial statements of the WINDRUSH PROJECT (WINDRUSH COMPENSATION SCHEME) regards its expenditures commencing from the good year of our Lord 1971 the Month May on the 30th Date up until project initialisation (start date).

We do not hold auditing or financial statements relating to this subject matter going back to 1971. This is because the Windrush Compensation Scheme was not launched until April 2019. However, we have published two reports on the Windrush situation and Windrush Compensation Scheme which may be of interest.

In December 2018 we published a report on the Home Office’s [Handling of the Windrush situation](#). This study examined how the Home Office handled the impact of its immigration policies on the Windrush generation. We sought to establish whether long-running problems with the way the Home Office handles information and immigration casework may have contributed to the situation.

In May 2021, we published [Investigation into the Windrush Compensation Scheme](#). This investigation covered the Home Office’s establishment and administration of the scheme and the progress it has made in implementing changes from December 2020. It sets out:

- the history and development of the compensation scheme;
- the Department’s engagement activity;
- the number of compensation claims and payments; and
- the Department’s administration of the scheme.

In addition to these reports, we are currently working on a lessons learned report on government compensation schemes for citizens who have suffered harm, hardship and distress from failures by public bodies, which is scheduled to be published in summer 2024. This will include the findings from our report on the Windrush Compensation Scheme. More information about the scope of this report is available on our website [Lessons learned: government compensation schemes - NAO work in progress](#).

We also audit and express an opinion on the financial statements of government departments and other government bodies, including the Home Office. The Home Office [2022-23 Annual Report and Accounts](#) give some useful background to the Windrush Compensation Scheme and show the in-year transaction for 2022-23 and the estimated liability as at 31 March 2023 on the scheme. Please see pages 77-78 and 256-258.

In your correspondence you also requested information about the building at 1, Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ, including “the plaque portraying the list of names of the patrons... on the wall of the foyer” and on “the commencement of the Windrush HQ building located at No 1, Bedford Park Croydon CR0 2AQ before the Windrush project was transferred to Lunar House, 40, Wellesley Road Croydon CR9 2BY.”

The National Audit Office does not hold any information about plaques on the wall of Trafalgar House or about the ownership and history of the building. Trafalgar House, 1 Bedford Park, Croydon, CRO 2AQ is a Land Registry office. You may therefore want to contact the Land Registry for information about the building:

Contact form [HMLR Guide Page · HM Land Registry](#)

Customer Support Centre 0300 006 0411

Freedom of Information requests [foi@landregistry.gov.uk](mailto:foi@landregistry.gov.uk)

For further information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme you may want to contact the Home Office:

Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
United Kingdom

Email: [public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 7035 4848

Freedom of Information requests [foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk).

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**NAO FOI Team**

## **Annex A**

### **Statement of Policy**

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk) or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The FOI & Correspondence Manager will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.