16 February 2018

Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
(by email)

I committed to providing you with a further update on our plans to monitor and evaluate the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. As I hope I made clear when I gave evidence to the Committee, I believe it is vital that we do as much as possible to understand how refugees have been able to integrate into life in the UK, the factors which affect this, and what can be done to enhance integration. This belief has been reinforced by my appointment as Director of the Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration Directorate in UK Visas and Immigration.

During the session, I described the mechanism that had been implemented to secure outcome data on refugees from local authorities. We ran our second round of data collection in April and May 2017 and received data from 90% of expected local authorities (178 in total) and on more than 4,600 refugees.

I have enclosed a slide pack for your information which sets out preliminary findings from this data,¹ but should point out that positive integration outcomes can take some time to manifest themselves. Therefore, whilst being helpful for benchmarking purposes, we hope to add to this picture by accessing data held by other government departments. This will facilitate longer-term outcome monitoring in key areas such as employment and educational progression. Discussions with other government departments are ongoing.

Local authorities are asked to provide monitoring data on refugees to cover their first 12-15 months in the UK and are approached in Autumn and Spring each year to do this. This means we will continue to receive biannual monitoring reports through the duration of the schemes. Data from other government departments will be included in this analysis, provided access can be agreed.

¹ These relate to 3,587 refugees that had been captured when analysis began. Unless otherwise stated, the findings relate to those aged 16 years and above (n=1,986).
I am keen that our monitoring and evaluation work promotes an enhanced focus on improving the resettlement schemes and outcomes for refugees. We will therefore be sharing and discussing learning and insights with local authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships that are participating in resettlement schemes.

Following a tender exercise, Ipsos Mori have been appointed to undertake qualitative research with refugees and key delivery partners. We anticipate that this work will help us to build on what we learn from monitoring data and allow us to further understand how the scheme is operating. I am committed to implementing improvements to our resettlement approach based on what we learn.

Yours sincerely

Paul Morrison
Director
Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration