



# Response Form – Cap on Safe and Legal Routes Consultation

## About you

<b>Full name</b>	James Devonshire
<b>Job title</b> or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise	Head of Housing
<b>Local authority (or equivalent) represented</b>	Tandridge District Council
<b>Date</b>	28 December 2023
<b>Postcode</b>	RH8 OBT



# Responses

Ahead of responding, please familiarise yourself with the consultation paper, with particular regard to the “Instructions for completing the questionnaire” section.

Question	Response
<b>Q1:</b> What organisations (including VCS organisations, and community sponsorship groups) in your area have you engaged with while compiling your response and have you included the responses received from these organisations in your local authority consolidated response?	In completing this consultation, Tandridge District Council has consulted with the first-tier authority, Surrey County Council and all other District and Borough Councils in the County. Updates are provided by health colleagues below in response to question 8.
<b>Q2:</b> What is your capacity to house and support those coming through safe and legal routes under the cap in calendar year 2025?	2
<b>Q3:</b> What evidence can you provide to support this (for example, number of properties that you have available or can procure)?	Tandridge District Council has the benefit of being a stock holding authority. As the local housing authority the Council administers a housing register and choice based lettings system for both Council owned and registered provider accommodation in the district.  In addition to this, the Council maintains strong relationships with the private sector via its Private Sector Access Scheme.
<b>Q4:</b> Of the above number, in 2025, how many of the	a. <b>Complex Cases:</b> 0



following groups do you anticipate being able to accommodate, and ensure appropriate support is in place for:	<b>b. Single people: 1</b>
	<b>c. Large families: 0</b> While the Council will be happy to commit to assisting 1 family, the realistic prospects of being able to assist a large family (ie one requiring 4+ bedrooms), either in our stock or PRS, are very low.
<b>Q5:</b> Of the above number, how many of these do you expect to come through the community sponsorship scheme in your area?	0
<b>Q6:</b> The Resettlement Tariff and Community Sponsorship Funding provide the local authority with access to central funding for the purpose of supporting refugee integration. What impact has this funding had on your ability to resettle refugees in your area?	Thus far, the funding has been sufficient to enable effective resettlement of previous refugees who were eligible for it.
<b>Q7:</b> There is no additional funding being introduced with the cap. How could the funding instructions be changed to maximise the existing funding, enabling innovation and increased delivery of services in your area?	Review the long term / indefinite commitment to providing funding to meet any shortfall between ongoing rental costs and Universal Credit entitlement (taking into account Local Housing Allowance levels and Benefit Cap) for larger households.



**Q8:** What impact do you assess the local provision of public services such as education, social care (adult and children) and healthcare has on your ability to resettle refugees in your area? Why do you assess this to be the case?

There are existing pressures on the local healthcare system within Surrey, particularly in those locations where there are concentrations of asylum seekers and other people from abroad placed in hotels and hostels. As an upper-tier local authority, Surrey has welcomed one of the highest, if not the highest number of arrivals through the Homes for Ukraine scheme of all English counties, which has placed further demands on particular services, such as education and primary healthcare.

As such, whilst the moral and humanitarian case for resettling refugees is accepted and understood, there are resource constraints which limit capacity. All parts of the system has supported the health and care needs for these citizens who often have high needs and are very complex. Where General Practices have had large intakes, we are seeing real sustainability issues which if they continue, could result in closures of list to all patients. This coupled with the system pressures that exist within Health such as winter surge and infectious disease (Flu/TB & screening programmes) we do not feel that the system could tolerate further impacts. The risk may impact areas such as the ability to provide safe provision (GPs hold clinical responsibility for the patients) to the whole population and not just patients within the immigration programmes eg GP practices closing their lists to all patients where pressure is unmanageable. The greatest part of the challenge is the concentration of numbers when people are placed in large accommodations or families the same locations as this bears the greatest impact on singular practices and health services

**Thank you for participating in this consultation.**



Home Office

**Please send your response by midnight on 15 December 2023 to:**  
[capconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:capconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk)