



Ministry of
JUSTICE

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Dear Tom,

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT JUSTICE - URGENT QUESTION 17 JUNE

During this urgent question you asked me to quantify the additional tax-funded resources that have been allocated to support asylum seekers who are affected by the problem. I did not have that information to hand at the time and so I am writing now to deal with the point.

As I said in my statement to the House, the most important issue now that Refugee and Migrant Justice has decided to enter into administration is the arrangements that are made for its clients. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is working closely with the administrator and others to ensure that urgent measures are in place so that clients continue to receive a good quality service. The LSC has experience of handling the transfer of work when a provider leaves the market and is satisfied that there is adequate capacity to absorb the extra workload. Though some initial disruption is unfortunately inevitable, every effort will be made to minimise this. The LSC is making urgent arrangements for other providers to take on RMJ cases that require prompt advice, for example clients held in detention.

Also, officials are in contact with the Tribunal Service and the UK Border Agency to ensure that appropriate adjournments are considered to assist RMJ clients in the event that they are temporarily unrepresented or have instructed a new representative at short notice. Jonathan Djanogly has also spoken directly to Damian Green.

Any costs associated with these various measures will be absorbed within existing budgets. No additional resources are being allocated for this purpose. Where any provider ceases to have a legal aid contract for whatever reason, the LSC will make

an assessment of any potential financial issues in the individual circumstances. This will include payments on account made, claims to be billed and whether for example the provider will be continuing to conclude cases for existing clients.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Simon Hughes MP and I have also arranged for a copy to be placed in the library.




KENNETH CLARKE