



10 September 2013

Heather Bolton
Director
South East England Councils
By e-mail

Dear Heather

I am writing to introduce a decision by the National Security Council on the redundancy policy to be put in place for locally engaged (LE) staff in Afghanistan when staff numbers are reduced as part of the drawdown of UK operations in Helmand. One aspect of the redundancy policy is an offer to departing LE staff to relocate to the UK.

The Cabinet Office has recently set up a cross-Whitehall Implementation Team, involving MoD, FCO, DFID, Home Office and others, and has started to work with departments to deliver the redundancy programme. Part of this delivery programme is to ensure we have adequate reception arrangements in place for those that qualify and choose to relocate to the UK.

We would like to secure pledges, and ultimately sign agreements with local authorities to provide three months accommodation and integration support for new arrivals under this scheme. Funding will be provided from central Government to local authorities to cover the cost of the accommodation and integration support. Further details on the scheme can be found in the attached briefing.

I would be grateful if you can raise this issue with local authorities in your area to see if any have an interest in participating. I am also writing to the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to request that they help facilitate discussions between the project team and local authorities and I'd like you to be part of those discussions in your area. I am additionally writing directly to local authorities through the Local Government Association.

If you would like further advice on this programme please contact Katherine McNulty (Katherine.McNulty@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) who is leading on the relocation work for the Implementation Team. She, and the Implementation Team Leader, Philip Rushbrook, would also welcome the opportunity to come and discuss this with you if local authorities in your area have an interest in participating in this scheme.

Yours sincerely

Afghanistan LE Staff Implementation Team
National Security Secretariat
Cabinet Office