



PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Daniel Ayres

17 August 2026

Dear Daniel Ayres

Freedom of Information Act 2000, Reference: FOI-216563-2026

The council has completed its search relating to your request about immigration, asylum and resettlement received on Fri, 17 Jul 2026.

Request

Regarding Immigration, Asylum and Resettlement, for the period 1 January 2023 to the date this request is processed, please provide the following information -

1. Accommodation by Settlement

For each town, village or city within the council's administrative area, please provide:

- The name of the settlement
- Whether Home Office asylum accommodation has operated there during the requested period
- The type of accommodation (hotel, dispersal accommodation, HMO, contingency accommodation, military site, or other)
- The maximum capacity, where recorded
- The current occupancy, where recorded

2. Total Numbers

Please provide the total number of individuals accommodated within the council area under:

- Home Office asylum support
- Dispersal accommodation
- Contingency accommodation
- Hotel accommodation
- Refugee resettlement schemes
- Afghan resettlement schemes
- Homes for Ukraine (where recorded separately)

Please provide annual figures where available

3. Funding Received

Please provide details of all funding received by the council from:

- The Home Office
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (or successor department)
- Any other Government department

Where the funding relates to:

- Asylum accommodation
- Asylum support
- Refugee resettlement
- Afghan resettlement
- Homes for Ukraine
- Migration-related services
- Integration programmes

For each payment, please provide:

- Date received
- Amount
- Funding programme
- Purpose of the funding

4. Payments to Third Parties

Please provide details of payments made by the council relating to immigration or asylum programmes, including payments to:

- Hotels
- Landlords
- Housing providers

- Charities
- Community organisations
- Contractors
- Consultants

For each payment, please provide:

- Recipient
- Amount
- Date
- Purpose
- Funding source (if recorded)

5. Council Costs

Please provide the total annual expenditure incurred by the council in relation to:

- Housing
- Education
- Social care
- Public health
- Translation and interpretation
- Community cohesion
- Safeguarding
- Any other service where expenditure has been separately identified as relating to asylum seekers, refugees or Home Office-funded migration schemes

6. Agreements

Please provide copies of any Memoranda of Understanding, Service Level Agreements or funding agreements currently in force between the council and:

- The Home Office
- Home Office accommodation providers
- Refugee resettlement delivery partners

If any information is withheld, please specify the exemption relied upon and explain why it applies.

If any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide all information that can be supplied within the limit and advise how the remainder may be refined.

I would prefer the information electronically in Excel, CSV or PDF format.

Response

The council does hold information within the definition of your request.

1. Accommodation by Settlement

For each town, village or city within the council's administrative area, please provide:

- **The name of the settlement**

Official regional and local authority data on immigration groups is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

- **Whether Home Office asylum accommodation has operated there during the requested period**

Yes.

- **The type of accommodation (hotel, dispersal accommodation, HMO, contingency accommodation, military site, or other)**

Both asylum hotels closed retrospectively in April and May 2024. The current operating model in Westmorland and Furness is dispersal accommodation. There are no military sites used within Westmorland and Furness.

- **The maximum capacity, where recorded**

This information is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

- **The current occupancy, where recorded**

This information is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

2. Total Numbers

Please provide the total number of individuals accommodated within the council area under:

- **Home Office asylum support**

This information is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

- **Dispersal accommodation**

This information is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

- **Contingency accommodation**

There is no contingency accommodation in Westmorland and Furness.

- **Hotel accommodation**

There is no hotel accommodation in Westmorland and Furness.

- **Refugee resettlement schemes**

- Afghan resettlement schemes**

This information is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

- **Homes for Ukraine (where recorded separately)**

This information is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-regional-and-local-authority-data>

3. Funding Received

Please provide details of all funding received by the council from:

- **The Home Office**
- **The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (or successor department)**
- **Any other Government department**

Where the funding relates to:

- **Asylum accommodation**
- **Asylum support**
- **Refugee resettlement**
- **Afghan resettlement**
- **Homes for Ukraine**
- **Migration-related services**
- **Integration programmes**

For each payment, please provide:

- **Date received**
- **Amount**
- **Funding programme**

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

- **Purpose of the funding**

Guidance documents are publicly available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-schemes-funding-instructions-2025-to-2026-and-interim-data-sharing-protocol/afghan-resettlement-programme->

financial-year-2025-to-2026-accessible

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-resettlement-programmes-funding-instruction-2025-to-2026>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-dispersal-grant-funding-instruction/funding-instruction-for-local-authorities-asylum-grant-2025-2026>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homes-for-ukraine-council-guides>

4. Payments to Third Parties

Please provide details of payments made by the council relating to immigration or asylum programmes, including payments to:

- **Hotels**

N/A

- **Landlords**

N/A

- **Housing providers**

N/A

- **Charities**

N/A

- **Community organisations**

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

- **Contractors**

We consider this information to be exempt under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Further details of this exemption are provided at the

end of this response.

- **Consultants**

N/A

5. Council Costs

Please provide the total annual expenditure incurred by the council in relation to:

- **Housing**
- **Education**
- **Social care**
- **Public health**
- **Translation and interpretation**
- **Community cohesion**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Any other service where expenditure has been separately identified as relating to asylum seekers, refugees or Home Office-funded migration schemes**

We consider this information to be exempt under Section 12 FOIA. Further details of this exemption are provided at the end of this response.

6. Agreements

Please provide copies of any Memoranda of Understanding, Service Level Agreements or funding agreements currently in force between the council and:

- **The Home Office**

Please see the attached document. Please note some information has been redacted as it contains personal data. We consider this to be exempt under Section 40(2) FOIA. Further details of this exemption are provided at the end of this response.

- **Home Office accommodation providers**

N/A

- **Refugee resettlement delivery partners**

N/A

Section 21 – Information accessible by other means

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, we are not obliged to provide you with information which is reasonably accessible by other means.

The requested information is available online using the links provided.

If this is not the information you are looking for, or if you are unable to access it for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Section 43 – Commercial interests

The requested information in relation to payments made to contractors is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the FOIA. Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding it. In this case, disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Westmorland and Furness Council.

Section 43 FOIA is a qualified exemption, and therefore we must consider a public interest test to establish if the balance favours disclosure or withholding the information.

Factors in favour of disclosing the information:

There is a public interest in openness and transparency regarding the expenditure of public funds. Disclosure would promote accountability for the Council's procurement and contract management activities and enable greater public understanding of how public money is spent.

Factors in favour of withholding the information:

There is a strong public interest in protecting the Council's ability to obtain best value for money during procurement processes. Disclosure would be likely to weaken the Council's negotiating position in future procurement exercises by revealing commercially sensitive information that could be used by suppliers when determining future pricing strategies. It is of particular relevance that the Council is due to undertake a procurement exercise of this nature in the near future.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We consider that Section 12 of the FOIA applies to question 5 of your request because the information cannot be provided within the 'appropriate limit' of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours).

The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested.

In order to gather the information that you have requested, we would need to manually search thousands of records, spanning various departments and officers, which would be impracticable. The information is not held in a reportable format. While we cannot provide an accurate estimate of the time that this will take, we are confident that this would involve a substantial amount of officer time, and certainly in excess of 18 hours. Complying with the request would divert officers from their normal day to day duties to the detriment of other service users.

Public authorities are obligated to offer advice and assistance which would enable applicants to resubmit a request which could be responded to within the appropriate limit - so far as it would be reasonable to do so. In this case, this does not appear to be possible due to the specific nature of the request and the way in which the information is held. However, we have responded to the parts of your request that we are able to within the appropriate limit.

Section 40(2) – Third party personal data

You will note that some third-party personal data has been redacted. This is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) FOIA. This consists of names and contact details.

Disclosure of this information would contravene the first principle of data protection - that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Any disclosure under the FOIA must be considered as an unrestricted disclosure to the general public. It would not be fair to disclose this personal information when the individual(s) concerned have a strong and reasonable expectation that the personal information held about them will remain confidential. There is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice that disclosure would cause to the rights and freedoms of the individuals concerned.

Disclaimer

Most of the information that we provide in response to requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by The Council. However the copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied in this response for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner. Where the copyright owner is the council you will

need to make an application under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the owner to obtain their permission.

If you have any issues regarding this letter you should contact the council in the first instance to attempt to resolve them.

You can request an internal review within 40 days of receiving the response to your original request. If you would like to request a review, please contact the Information Governance Team using the below details.

- T: 01539 637437
- E: complaints@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner (ICO) at: Information Commissioner's Officer, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or by telephoning 0303 123 1113. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Information Governance procedure provided by Westmorland and Furness Council.

Further information can be found on the council's website.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team