

Mark Burroughs
Care Planning Team
1st Floor
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Dear Mark

I am writing to you in response to a letter received on Friday 19th September by Solihull Council from the Care Planning Team relating to our UASC Care leavers grant claim for 2007/08, which provides confirmation of the grant settlement offered by DCSF for 2007/08. The letter states that 18 FTE have been disallowed from Solihull's original claim and asks for any challenges to these decisions to be made within with 3 weeks. The disallowed children have been identified on an accompanying spreadsheet.

I understand that all grant claims have been subject to a verification exercise with the UK Border and Immigration Agency (UKBA). This has resulted in 18 FTE (35 children) being disallowed from Solihull's claim as UKBA records show the child having no leave to remain. However I believe that a number of these cases are subject to ongoing appeals and are, therefore, eligible against the Care Leavers grant. This could be evidenced by reference to Home Office records.

The Home Office has indicated they only have the capacity to process 10 queries per month and cannot guarantee a response within 28 days. This prevents Solihull Council from providing supporting evidence to challenge the disputes cases within the timescale imposed by DCSF based on Home Office records. Solihull will be liaising with all known solicitors of the children involved to provide supporting evidence of appeals made, however, again the 3 week deadline is restrictive in any challenge being made.

I would like to highlight that the scale of UASC care leavers in Solihull represents 145 (60.42%) children of a total of 240 children and any loss in funding would cause a significant financial impact. The Council has tried to ensure UASC has not become a political issue but in the event the Council taxpayers are required to fund a UASC budget pressure this will become increasingly difficult to manage.

I would be grateful, therefore, if an extension to the 3 week deadline could be granted to allow Solihull Council to properly consider and challenge the children currently disallowed by DCSF.

Yours sincerely

Mark Rogers
Chief Executive

Anne Plummer
(Acting) Director of Children's Services

Samantha Gilbert
(Acting) Director of Business Support

Helen Murray

From: [REDACTED] (Strategic Services - Solihull MBC) **Sent:** Thu 09/10/2008 16:49
[REDACTED]@solihull.gov.uk
To: Bentley, Simon (Strategic Services - Solihull MBC)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Ref MR/SB/JJ - UASC Care Leavers Grant - Solihull
Attachments:

Thought you would be interested.

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: UASC.LEAVINGCAREGRANT@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:UASC.LEAVINGCAREGRANT@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 09 October 2008 16:12
To: Rogers, Mark (Strategic Services - Solihull MBC); [REDACTED] (Acting Corporate Director, Education & Children's Services, Children & Young People - Solihull MBC); [REDACTED] (Strategic Services - Solihull MBC)
Cc: [REDACTED] (Strategic Services - Solihull MBC); UASC.LEAVINGCAREGRANT@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Ref MR/SB/JJ - UASC Care Leavers Grant - Solihull

Dear Mr Rogers,

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd October, received on 9th October, regarding the UASC Care Leavers Grant claim for 2007/2008.

I appreciate your concerns about the UKBA records, which have been raised by several authorities, and understand how this has created additional work for you. You will appreciate that we would need confirmation of immigration status before authorising grant payment. At this stage, any evidence you supply need not be verified by the Home Office, and we would be prepared to accept information you already have on your files, e.g. letters from solicitors.

We are able to extend the deadline for an additional 3 weeks, i.e. by 31st October, but we wish to pay the Grant to you as soon as possible, and in addition we have limited resources to continue working on this, therefore cannot extend beyond that.

Hope this is helpful.

Regards,

Mark Burrows

Care Planning Team

Children in Care Division

The original of this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet virus scanning service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) On leaving the GSi this email was certified virus free. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

Helen Murray

From: Emma Jenkins, LGA Policy **Sent:** Tue 07/10/2008 17:32
To: Harland Jerry; Kinney Brian
Cc: Helen Murray
Subject: FW: Kent - UASC Funding issues
Attachments:

Thanks for the update Jerry and hopefully a direct meeting with Kent will assist.

We're happy to have a look at the response to Cllr Carter if any comments from us would be helpful. It would be very helpful if John could be cc-ed in into the response, given his close working with Kent and to keep him the loop.

I wonder if Kent have been informed of the timelines you have indicated to us. If not, they will not be aware th payment of the leaving care special circumstances grant was dependent on agreeing the Leaving Care Grant 07/08 with DCSF, which might give them a better sense of the timelines involved.

John has also had a recent conversation with Lin about the funding timelines and ensuring a cross-governme resolution!

Kind regards,

Emma

From: Harland Jerry [mailto:Jerry.Harland2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 October 2008 10:49
To: Emma Jenkins, LGA Policy
Cc: Helen Murray; Kinney Brian
Subject: Kent - UASC Funding issues

Emma

As you know a considerable amount of our time is spent dealing with issues surrounding Ke and their concerns over past and future funding arrangements. This is quite understandable as they are a Gateway authority with considerable numbers of UASC and former UASC. We have attempted to engage with them in the past but this was rebuffed.

We have now arranged to meet with the Kent Directors of Finance and Children's Services the first week in November to go through any existing issues they have and to explain the v forward.

Our Minister as you know received a letter from Councillor Carter – a reply is due to be sen this week, copied to Peter Gilroy in answer to his earlier letter to Brian.

I have spoken this morning to DCSF who are working on the Leaving Care Grant for 07/08. were due to have provided evidence to them by **Sept 18** to clarify the difference between their claim and the DCSF offer. Although there has been an exchange of e mails on eligibility this information has not yet been forthcoming.

Despite this we have issued the claim forms for the Leaving Care Special Circumstances money but we cannot complete this work until their final settlement has been agreed for the

Leaving Care Grant 07/08 as the total under spend that needs to be considered depends on the final settlement.

Hope this puts Kent's position into context.

Jerry Harland

UASC Reform Team

Immigration Group - Central Operations,

2nd Floor, Block E, Whitgift Centre, CROYDON



jerry.harland2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This email and any files transmitted with it are private and intend solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

If you have received this email in error please return it to the address it came from telling them it is not for you and then delete it from your system.

This email message has been swept for computer viruses.

The original of this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet virus scanning service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) On leaving the GSI this email was certified virus free.

Communications via the GSI may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

 You forwarded this message on 07/10/2008 10:55.

Helen Murray

From: Harland Jerry [Jerry.Harland2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk] **Sent:** Tue 07/10/2008 10:49
To: Emma Jenkins, LGA Policy
Cc: Helen Murray; Kinney Brian
Subject: Kent - UASC Funding issues
Attachments:

Emma

As you know a considerable amount of our time is spent dealing with issues surrounding Kent and their concerns over past and future funding arrangements. This is quite understandable as they are a Gateway authority with considerable numbers of UASC and former UASC. We have attempted to engage with them in the past but this was rebuffed.

We have now arranged to meet with the Kent Directors of Finance and Children's Services the first week in November to go through any existing issues they have and to explain the way forward.

Our Minister as you know received a letter from Councillor Carter – a reply is due to be sent this week, copied to Peter Gilroy in answer to his earlier letter to Brian.

I have spoken this morning to DCSF who are working on the Leaving Care Grant for 07/08. We were due to have provided evidence to them by **Sept 18** to clarify the difference between their claim and the DCSF offer. Although there has been an exchange of e-mails on eligibility this information has not yet been forthcoming.

Despite this we have issued the claim forms for the Leaving Care Special Circumstances money but we cannot complete this work until their final settlement has been agreed for the Leaving Care Grant 07/08 as the total underspend that needs to be considered depends on the final settlement.

Hope this puts Kent's position into context.

Jerry Harland

UASC Reform Team

Immigration Group - Central Operations,

2nd Floor, Block E, Whitgift Centre, CROYDON



jerry.harland2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

This email and any files transmitted with it are private and intend solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

If you have received this email in error please return it to the address it came from telling them it is not for you and then delete it from your system.


This email message has been swept for computer viruses.

The original of this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet virus scanning service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) On leaving the GSI this email was certified virus free.

Communications via the GSI may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

Attachments can contain viruses that may harm your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

Helen Murray

From: [REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk **Sent:** Thu 02/10/2008 10:50
To: Helen Murray
Cc: Harland Jerry
Subject: FW: Letter from Director UASC Reform
Attachments:  [workshop letter.doc\(154KB\)](#)

As requested.

[REDACTED]
PA to Brian Kinney
Director
UASC Reform Programme
UK Border Agency
2nd Floor, Block E
Croydon

T: 020 [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: Helen.Murray@lga.gov.uk [<mailto:Helen.Murray@lga.gov.uk>]

Sent: 02 October 2008 10:15 AM

To: Kinney Brian

CC: Harland Jerry; Emma.Jenkins@lga.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Draft Letter

Brian

And just to say that I haven't seen the letter about the workshops yet so grateful if you could send that through. Brian - grateful if you could cc us in to Cllr Carter's reply.

Thanks

Helen

To all Chief Executives of Local Authorities
Directors of Children's Services
Government Offices in the Regions

Tel +44 (0)20 8760 3166
Fax +44 (0)20 8760 4792
Email brian.kinney3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Web www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

24 September 2008

Dear Chief Executive,

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) – New Dates For Regional Workshops

On 28 August 2008 I wrote to all Chief Executives of Local Authorities in England and Wales and invited them to nominate a representative to attend a regional workshop that would consider the reform proposals for supporting UASC. At those workshops, to be held in October, we intended to set out how we wanted to set up specialist authorities to look after this group of children.

My purpose in writing to you again is to advise you that we have had to rearrange the dates of the workshops, due to on-going discussions with a number of key local authorities.

The dates for the rearranged workshops are as follows:-

Region	Date	Time	Location
Midlands	6 November	14.00 to 17.00	Birmingham
North East	11 November	14.00 to 17.00	Newcastle
South West and Wales	12 November	14.00 to 17.00	Cardiff
North West	13 November	14.00 to 17.00	Manchester
Yorkshire and Humberside	18 November	14.00 to 17.00	Leeds

I apologise for the need to change the dates and would be grateful if you would pass the new dates to those who had expressed an interest in attending and would ask them to contact either jerry.harland2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk (0208-760-3826) or yvonne.henry7@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk (0208-760-3166) by no later than Friday 10 October to confirm their attendance. The venue for the meetings will be available once we have an indication of the numbers attending.

Yours sincerely

Brian Kinney
Director – UASC Reform Programme