

Asylum Questionnaires

On 15 May 2023 the Home Office announced a new process to deal with outstanding asylum claims. This process applies only to cases which meet all of the following criteria: -

- Asylum claimants from Iran or Iraq
- Who claimed asylum before 28 June 2022
- Who have not already been interviewed in detail about their asylum claim
- Who claimed when they were 18 or older
- Are still in the UK

The Home Office has started to send letters out advising these people to complete an online asylum questionnaire. These may be sent directly to claimants or their lawyers if they have one. The form can be completed online and returned to the Home Office online, by email or by post. Other evidence can also be submitted, but the Home Office has requested that original travel and identity documents are sent to them by post.

What you need to do

If this applies to you then you should receive a letter from the Home Office in the next few weeks. If you have a lawyer they should contact you about this and advise you what to do next.

If you do not have a lawyer then you can make a referral to us on our website - <https://gmiau.org/help-and-advice/services/#referrals> but please note that we cannot guarantee to take on your case. There are also links to find other lawyers on our website.

You have 30 working days to complete and return the questionnaire. You can ask for more time if needed by emailing asylumcontactquestionnairereturns@homeoffice.gov.uk.

We advise you not to complete the form without a lawyer. The Home Office say that they will not withdraw your asylum claim if you do not return the form. If you do not complete the form then the Home Office will need to interview you about the reasons for your asylum claim. The Home Office say that they will need to interview you even if you complete the form, but this interview may be shorter and only ask about certain things based on what you have put in the form.

We do not know how long it will take for a decision on your claim if you complete the form or if you don't, but the Prime Minister has said all of these cases should be decided by the end of 2023. That should not be affected by whether you return the form or not.

